FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 30, 2016

Mid edition No 736

TRANSPORT

Boris Island is grounded

Airport plan bites the dust much to Medway's delight

GOING OUT

Firework spectacular

Guide to county's best displays

CULTURE

The Bard of Canterbury

Kit Marlowe's name added as co-author on Shakespeare plays

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Let us just be pleased we have both their works

THE news that Canterbury's foremost son Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe is to be recognised for his input with some chap from the Midlands called William Shakespeare's efforts has raised eyebrows.

Academics and literature lovers have spent generations arguing over who exactly wrote which play and pointing out all the reasons their 'non' favoured candidate could not actually do so.

A cunning Elizabethan conspiracy or just one of the first major examples of marketing spin? Who knows but without either of these two spectacularly gifted gentlemen our language, lives and culture would be a great deal poorer.

As someone once wrote 'all that glisters is not gold'. How true that still is. With 'uncertainty' being the key word after 'Brexit' for 2016, there seems to be many shiny people and things in the news at the moment and one wonders which is the real deal and which is the fool that 'thinks himself wise'?

Don't forget this weekend the clocks go back. Although in this digital age of self-adjusting machines, there is something quite 'human' about resetting your own clock – and the fact that at least one person you know will still forget to make the change and either be late for an appointment, or stood outside a supermarket for an hour longer than they needed to.

It's also the time of year when our 'little monsters' dress up as little monsters and take to the streets in search of sweets. Having clocked the displays of Hallowe'en costumes, lanterns and other paraphernalia in our shops, I think we could be in for quite a few nights of it.

To those taking to the streets in their costumes or accompanying children this weekend – please respect the wishes of others not to take part, especially those living on their own.

Have a great weekend and, if you get the chance, now is the time to get outside and view the stunning colours of the autumnal leaves.

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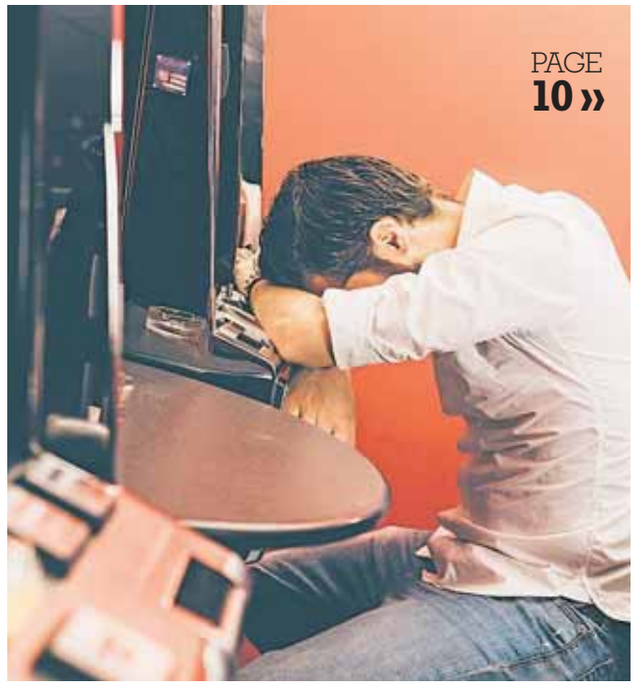

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

PC stopped breathing in 'dangerous sex game'

By Harriet Line
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TRIAL: Stefano Brizzi is accused of murdering Greenhithe police officer Gordon Semple

AN ALLEGED sadomasochist accused of murdering a policeman has told a court that the officer died while they were playing "a very dangerous game".

Stefano Brizzi, aged 50, described how PC Gordon Semple, 59, from Greenhithe, had been enjoying the sex session at the Italian's home in south London on April 1 but then stopped breathing.

The pair, who met on the gay dating app Grindr, had been performing bondage actions – which included Brizzi sitting on PC Semple's face while he rocked his "bottom back and forward", the jury at the Old Bailey heard.

Brizzi said PC Semple was wearing a collar and a mask while he held a leash which he tightened at the policeman's request.

Standing in the witness box, Brizzi said he was "pulling the leash and counting until 30. I was following his instructions."

He said PC Semple was "extremely excited" and had a "very big hard on while we were playing this game and he was enjoying it".

"His face was under my buttocks," Brizzi said, but when he stood up he noticed "that something had gone wrong because he didn't respond any more".

Brizzi said he then removed PC Semple's mask and "realised that he was completely unresponsive and I started to panic".

"Unfortunately I couldn't see any response. I also checked his pulse to see if I could feel any pulse. I realised that we had been playing a very dangerous game."

Brizzi didn't call an ambulance thinking PC Semple may have had asthma and checked his pocket to see if he had an inhaler but instead found his police badge. "I was absolutely petrified," Brizzi said.

The pair used code to indicate whether they were enjoying the sexual acts or were struggling to cope.

"He would say the word 'Thank you, sir' when he had reached a point when he was reaching his limits and I should start to pay a bit more attention to what I was doing," Brizzi said.

But the pair also had the code word "red" to indicate that the activity should stop immediately.

"He never said red," Brizzi told the court.

The Italian denies murdering the officer but has admitted obstructing a coroner by disposing of the body.

Church halls to open doors as council backs homelessness projects

CHURCH halls across Thanet are to open their doors to rough sleepers as part of a project to tackle homelessness this winter.

Two new initiatives are being supported by a £45,000 investment from Thanet District Council to provide food, shelter and support to rough sleepers.

The Winter Shelter Scheme and Aspire Homeless Project will launch on December 1 as local homelessness figures continue to rise.

Headed up by Ian Buckland from the Salvation Army, the Winter Shelter Scheme will run for 13 weeks during the coldest months of the year and provide an evening meal and access to showers, a bed and breakfast to rough sleepers in churches in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

As well as providing practical support with access to food, clothing and healthcare, the shelter guests will also be given assistance over the 13 weeks, with the support of the Aspire Homeless Project, which will operate year-round, to identify opportunities for employment and training as well as help to move on to find appropriate, longer-term accommodation.

It will link in with existing partnerships in the area, including the Department for Work and Pensions, Public Health, East Kent College, Pipeline and TDC to provide support with health and wellbeing, education, training and housing.

Thanet District Council's cabinet member for community services Lin Fairbrass said: "This is a unique approach to tackling a very real problem in Thanet.

"Rough sleeping and homelessness is on the rise and we're determined to tackle this head on.

"We're delighted to provide these projects with financial support and will be working alongside our partners to identify future funding steams should the projects prove to be successful at the end of the pilot."

Police launch new appeal after teenager killed in crash

OFFICERS investigating a fatal crash on the Medway City Estate which killed a young motorcyclist are renewing their appeal for witnesses.

Jack Mander, aged 17, from Strood, died at the scene of the incident on Anthony's Way, Rochester, shortly after 9pm on Thursday, October 13.

He was riding his Yamaha 125 motorcycle when he was involved in a collision with a Volvo heavy goods vehicle.

A 44-year-old man from Wiltshire, arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing death by careless driving, remains on bail until February 15.

Anyone with information should call 01622 798538 or email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk.

County hailed after donating £650k to worldwide charity

KENT'S 20 Oxfam shops have raised more than £650,000 this year to support the charity's work around the world.

The cash will go towards Oxfam's projects tackling poverty, whether by responding to emergencies like the recent hurricane in Haiti, supporting Syrian families with clean water, helping farmers grow drought resistant seeds or funding programmes to prevent violence towards women and girls, the charity relies on funds raised in its shops to support its humanitarian work.

Area manager Scott Lester said: "I am so proud of our volunteers and staff and say a huge thank you to the public across the county who have supported us."

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Planning chief resigns in latest Manston twist

THE latest twist in an ongoing saga around the future of Manston Airport has resulted in the resignation of a planning chief.

Peter Evans, chair of Thanet District Council's planning committee, faced calls to step down due to an alleged conflict of interest following comments made at a public meeting last Sunday.

Ukip's Cllr Evans admitted he was "pro-Manston" and asked those attending the meeting for advice to help "combat" the plans of the site's owners, Stone Hill Park, who intend to develop housing and leisure facilities on the land.

It comes after a report concluded airport operations were "very unlikely to be financially viable".

Student union 'sorry' as 1D star used on posters for Black History Month

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A STUDENT union has apologised after a social media storm erupted when it named former One Direction star Zayn Malik as one of its faces on posters for Black History Month.

Kent Union came under intense criticism on Twitter from users who said the singer was neither black nor prominent enough to be recognised as such.

Other figures included as part of the union's campaign were Hildenborough's Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes and Crimean War hero Mary Seacole.

Che Scott-Heron tweeted: "Kent Uni is a joke. This uni thinks an English Pakistani boy from a band is a prominent figure in the black community."

Others described it as "a national embarrassment" while the union's rating on Facebook plummeted from 4.5 to 1.3 overnight.

In a statement, union president Rory Murray said: "I want to apologise on behalf of Kent Union to any individuals who were upset, uncomfortable or offended by the image shared.

ROW: Singer Zayn Malik

"There was no intent for this to happen and I am very sorry to anybody who felt this way.

"We always strive to do the very best and include our members to the full extent on our activities.

"Whilst we made every effort to include black and minority ethnic students on the planning for the month, clearly, we haven't got it right on this occasion – for that, I again apologise and will ensure we do better.

"Debate and discussion are an important part of any healthy university campus.

"I welcome people's right to critique the messages put out; it has given us all a chance to reflect and learn more.

"I am, however, uncomfortable at the level of some of the criticism aimed at those who made this decision as I believe that those black students have equally valid views on their race and culture.

"I welcome opportunities for students to debate, discuss and disagree with each other in respectable and safe environments; it helps us all work towards a better community."

BAKER: Jane Beedle

Beedle beaten in BBC's Bake Off farewell

BECKENHAM baker Jane Beedle missed out on the Great British Bake Off crown this week but says she'd "do it all again tomorrow" if she could.

The garden designer was beaten by Candice Brown in Wednesday's final – the last episode to appear on the BBC before the popular show switches to Channel 4.

To fit in with the royal theme of the week, to mark the Queen's 90th birthday, the bakers were tasked with creating a picnic fit for the monarch – one chocolate celebration cake, 12 puff pastry sausage rolls, 12 mini quiches, 12 savoury scones and 12 fruit and custard tarts.

Ms Beedle's spread was praised as "right royal and regal" by departing judge Mary Berry but she suffered from raw pastry in her apple and thyme sausage rolls.

"I don't know what tomorrow may bring but I would love to do some more filming if that is possible," she said.

"I'm just enjoying the five minutes of fame and am happy to consider anything that comes my way.

"I would do it all again tomorrow, a brilliant experience with lovely people, crew and bakers."

Ms Beedle and Ms Brown are planning a baking road trip together.

Social staff called up for Calais age checks

A "SMALL NUMBER" of social workers at Kent County Council remain on standby after the Home Office reached out for help in determining the ages of children crossing the Channel from the migrant camp in Calais known as the Jungle.

The council confirmed contact had been made at the end of last week but that "final plans have not been confirmed" and its social workers – earmarked for their expert age checks – are awaiting further instructions in the coming days.

It comes after photographs of new arrivals in Britain from Calais last week led to claims some were actually adults.

The Jungle was largely dismantled ahead of schedule, which was welcomed by Dover MP Charlie Elphicke, who has long campaigned for action across the Channel.

"People will be more desperate than ever to see if they can break into Britain, it's important that border security is stepped up at this time," he added.

Force launches gun amnesty fortnight

KENT Police is launching a two-week amnesty for the surrender of unwanted or unlicensed firearms and ammunition starting from 8am on Monday.

During these two weeks officers are encouraging the public to hand in unwanted firearms, ammunition, imitation firearms and air or gas-powered weapons.

Surrendering weapons avoids the risk of the items falling into the hands of criminals and also means they can be disposed of safely.

During the time period anyone surrendering firearms will not face prosecution for illegal possession.

Members of the public are advised to call 101 ahead of surrendering any firearms.

They can also, if they wish, use the 101 service to arrange the safe collection of any weapon from their home by an officer.

Det Chief Supt Robert Fordham said: "If you are unsure on whether it is legal to have a firearm in your possession, you should contact us for advice."

Actor visits heist site as film plans step up

ACTOR Larry Lamb, who is set to play the leading role in a film about the Hatton Garden jewellery heist, has visited the site's safe deposit area ahead of the movie's release.

The former EastEnders star met with former Metropolitan Police commander Peter Spindler at the location, as well as the Museum of London's curator, Jackie Keily.

The British capital's jewellery quarter was at the centre of a high-profile robbery over the Easter weekend in 2015 as a gang of career criminals stole valuables worth up to £14 million.

The Hatton Garden gang carried out the meticulously-planned crime, ransacking 73 boxes in the Safe Deposit after using a drill to bore a hole into the vault wall.

Lamb, 69, is playing the role of the group's ringleader Brian Reader, 77, from Dartford, who recently failed to win a cut to his six-year jail term.

The Hatton Garden Job is due for release in December.

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Power station uses divers to continue its nuclear clean-up

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

DIVERS are being used to clean-up the former cooling ponds at a Kent power station as part of a pioneering nuclear decommissioning programme.

The first work of its kind in the UK, it will see the pond skips at Dungeness that were once used to store used nuclear fuel cut up and packaged for disposal, while the water that remains in the ponds will act as additional radiation protection for the divers.

The technique also has additional environmental benefits, as the alternative of cutting skips after they have been removed from the ponds would require additional measures to prevent airborne contamination.

During electricity generation, the ponds were used to store used nuclear fuel in skips before it was sent off site for reprocessing.

The site has been fuel free for more than four years after being decommissioned in 2006, but the skips, which are classed as intermediate level waste, need to be safely disposed of.

Dungeness A site closure director Paul Wilkinson said: "The use of divers was a change in our way of working.

"We have successfully shown through trials that this work can be carried out safely and we can now make good progress in the clean-up of the cooling ponds."

PIONEERING: The work at Dungeness is the first of its kind in the UK

Once cut up the skips will be stored in approved waste containers in a shielded storage area on site before they are packaged for interim storage.

During the work an additional 20 tonnes of pond furniture, including framework and machinery, classed as low level waste will be removed and cut up before being disposed of at the Low Level Waste Repository in West Cumbria.

The learning from the work at Dungeness A site, expected to be completed in early 2017, will be passed on to other sites managed by contractor, Magnox.

John Clarke, NDA's chief executive, said: "We always encourage our contractors to adopt the highest standards of safety, security and environmental responsibility. This work by Magnox Ltd shows they are making real progress in clearing the ponds at Dungeness, in a way that is safe for the environment and saving time and money."

Ukip council throws weight behind Nuttall

THE Ukip-controlled Thanet District Council has announced it will be backing Paul Nuttall after he declared his intention to enter the party leadership race last weekend.

Leader Chris Wells said the North West MEP was "the outstanding candidate on offer, who will attract the support of MEPs, councillors, and assembly members across the land, and fire the imagination and enthusiasm of party members."

Police launch probe into warehouse fire

KENT Police has confirmed a warehouse blaze in Rochester is being treated as an arson attack.

Around 30 firefighters helped tackle the fire on Commissioner's Road having been called in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Residents were told to keep windows and doors shut as smoke drifted.

Bogus call warning

A WARNING has been issued to residents in Maidstone over scam phone calls.

Kent County Council says it has received a number of reports of such calls from people claiming to work for Maidstone Borough Council, asking residents about an apparent recent accident and has urged them not to disclose personal information.

Lib Dems brand £34 budget book 'extraordinary waste'

A GLOSSY brochure outlining Kent County Council's budget plans for the coming year has been slammed as "an extraordinary waste of money".

Figures reveal KCC spent some £6,877.60 on just 200 copies of its Annual Strategic Statement, equating to an individual cost of £34.

Liberal Democrat councillor Rob Bird said: "This is an extraordinary waste of money.

"The report was produced for county members to consider at the very same meeting where KCC is telling people that spending this year is currently forecast at £10m over budget.

"It looks awfully like the Conservative manifesto for next year's county elections, but it shouldn't be produced at the taxpayers' expense."

However, the document was defended in the council chamber by Conservative Jeremy Kite. The Dartford Rural ward councillor said in response: "If you really want to start doing your calculations about how much it costs to produce stuff, I guess you've got to divide it by the 1.4 million people who have access to it on the internet."

Facelift for luxury estate after £8m takeover deal

EASTWELL Manor in Ashford has been taken over by Champneys Health Resorts Ltd in a deal worth up to £8m.

The resort will remain under the ownership of Turrloo Parrett and his family, but Champneys will oversee the management and running of the 3,000-acre estate from November 1.

Bought by the Parrett family in 1995, Eastwell Manor was transformed from 23 bedrooms and 30 staff, to a 62 bedroom hotel alongside seven conference rooms, a leisure centre, a beauty salon and 140 staff.

"I think it will be wonderful beginning for Ashford, Eastwell Manor is a great product and I want it to continue," Mr Parrett said.

"We are happy that we have Champneys to take it forward and see it continue down the path that we started 20 years ago."

Champneys owner Stephen Purdew revealed the firm aims to have the resort fully renovated in the hotel brands' style within months.

"We started looking at this hotel around 18 months ago but the Parrett family didn't want to part with it then," he said.

"I think since then they have realised that there comes a time when a property as beautiful as this needs a new energy.

"We love this property. We have an immediate investment plan for the renovation of the main manor house and The Pavillion restaurant which we hope to finish by Easter 2017."

£500k station revamp

A £500,000 planned revamp of Tonbridge train station will go to consultation next week.

KCC received the cash from the Local Growth Fund, allocated by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership to improve the forecourt and highway outside the station.

Turn your clocks back

THE clocks fall back this weekend, meaning an extra hour in bed on Sunday morning.

Reverting to Greenwich Mean Time at 2am on Sunday typically signals darkness descending earlier on our evenings but, on the flipside, mornings may appear lighter than in recent weeks.

Illegally parked lorries

MORE than 2,700 lorries have been caught illegally parked around the county in less than a year.

Problem areas include the A2 near Cobham and Canterbury, the M2 Farthing Corner, the M20 at junctions eight, 11 and 13 and the A20 at Capel-le-Ferne.

Most loved Post Office

YALDING'S Post Office has been named the 'most loved' in the county for 2016.

To celebrate the achievement, Maidstone MP Helen Grant congratulated postmaster Tim Chapman, who collected the prize after an announcement was made at an awards ceremony hosted by Kent Rural Retailers.

Bridge Haven Care Home

Conyngham Lane, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5JX

Bridge Haven care home provides care with compassion for those living with dementia. The team of attentive, experienced and skilled staff provide 24 hour care in a pleasant, homely environment.

Services provided at Bridge Haven include full time residential care, respite care and day care. The rooms are bright and cheerful with many bedrooms having en-suite facilities providing relaxation and a sense of well-being. Facilities include the 'Snug' – a pub like facility for residents to enjoy and socialise and Gregory's tea room, situated in one of the two attractively laid gardens.

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Top Three Stories

1. Cinema expansion

Kent's second IMAX coming to Ashford

2. Committee nod for MP

Charlie Elphicke elected to new role

3. Rail workers balloted

Yet more Southern strikes on the cards

The Essential Guide:

...to Manston Airport

Everything you need to know about the battle to get planes flying again in Thanet

FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Dartford celebrated its eighth Festival of Light last week. Full story features in this paper, with all photos by Cohesion Plus.

Missed last week's...?

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Top Three Blogs

1. A nation of quitters?

Criticism of MP Zac Goldsmith's resignation

2. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step in the real world

3. Lorry lane needed

Why HGVs drive us round the bend

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Is a third runway at Heathrow best option?

1. Yes - 9%
2. No, Gatwick needs expanding - 79%
3. No, an estuary airport is needed - 8%
4. Don't care - 4%

RAREPRODUCTIONS
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5.30pm - 6.30pm (13 - 21 years old)
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2.30pm - 5.00pm (13 - 21 years old)
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A show fee is payable by all successful applicants

Life for killer who stabbed pair in row over shower temperature

Foster Christian is to spend a minimum of 30 years behind bars after this week being sentenced for the murders of Natasha Sadler-Ellis and Simon Gorecki at a house in Canterbury earlier this year...

A MURDERER who knifed two people to death at a house in Canterbury after a row over shower temperatures will spend a minimum of 30 years behind bars after being jailed for life this week.

Foster Christian, aged 54, of Dickens Avenue, Canterbury, claimed he had acted in self-defence when he fatally stabbed Natasha Sadler-Ellis, 40, and Simon Gorecki, 48, and seriously injured Ms Sadler-Ellis' 20-year-old son and another 16-year-old boy.

On Tuesday, March 29, this year, officers were called to a property in Dickens Avenue following reports of a disturbance.

Christian had also called police claiming he had been attacked by Mr Gorecki, Ms Sandler-Ellis and three other boys.

He said they had come into his room and started an argument where they hit him with beer cans and bottles.

He confirmed he used a knife because he "didn't know what else they had on them"

When officers arrived, they found Mr Gorecki and Ms Sadler-Ellis fatally wounded with multiple stab wounds.

The two boys were treated for stab wounds and Christian was arrested at the scene.

In a tribute, the family of Ms Sandler-Ellis, which included two sisters Jodie and Sheryl, and brother Steven, said she was "full of life and always laughing" and admitted "life will never be the same" without her.

They added: "She lived for her three boys whom she loved dearly and was so proud of and who are devastated at the loss of their mother.

"Natasha was a free spirit and we admired that about her.

"She lived her life regardless of what anyone said.

"She had an 'all or nothing' attitude; she was funny and her personality was infectious.

"Laughing and messing about, she had a real passion for music and her religion was drum and bass. We will love you forever."

Friends also helped raise well over a thousand pounds earlier this year, "to make things easier for our crazy friend's boys and family."

Mr Gorecki's family said: "Simon was a warm, bright and loving man, he was infectiously fun to be with and possessed that rarest of qualities, optimism, even when there was little to be found.

"We, his family, are devastated by our loss, as are his dear friends.

"He leaves behind so many who loved him, and of course his children who will miss him more than any of us can bear."

A subsequent investigation by detectives from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate revealed that the murders resulted from an argument regarding the temperature of a shower.

During the evening Mr Gorecki was taking a shower when Christian turned on a tap in the kitchen which caused the temperature of the water in the shower to change. Mr Gorecki shouted at Christian.

The 20-year-old was on the phone to his mother when he heard sounds of abuse so he and the boy went to Dickens Avenue.

Christian was in his room and Ms Sadler-Ellis and Mr Gorecki were in the hallway downstairs.

There was shouting between Ms Sadler-Ellis, Mr Gorecki and Christian.

Ms Sadler-Ellis' 20-year-old son tried to calm the situation, but Christian then shouted further abuse.

Ms Sadler-Ellis then went to his room and she was followed by the others where they found Christian stood in the doorway.

There was pushing and shoving between him and Ms Sadler-Ellis.

Her son tried to intervene by keeping his hand on Christian's chest.

He was then struck by Christian and punches were exchanged.

Christian retaliated by using a knife, which was covered by a plastic bag. Using the knife, he fatally wounded Mr Gorecki and Ms Sadler-Ellis and seriously injured her son and the 16-year-old boy.

Following a three-week trial at Maidstone Crown Court, on Friday, October 21, Christian was found guilty of murdering Ms Sadler-Ellis and Mr Gorecki and the wounding of her 20-year-old son and the 16-year-old boy.

Naomi Toro, aged 6, of Keyworth Mews, Canterbury, and Samantha Groombridge, aged 19, of Athelstan Road, Canterbury, both previously pleaded guilty to assisting an offender.

Toro had admitted to disposing of the knife in the River Stour. She later told police it was there.

All three were sentenced at the same court on Wednesday, where Toro was given one year in prison and Groombridge was sentenced to 10 weeks.

Senior investigating officer Det Chief Insp Nick Gossett said: "What started as an argument took a devastating turn. Now two lives have been lost and many lives ruined.

"Although Christian never denied stabbing Ms Sadler-Ellis and Mr Gorecki it is clear from our investigation that this was not self-defence, but murder.

"Christian murdered two people and seriously assaulted another two – and by trying to help him cover up his actions, Toro and Groombridge played their part too.

"His actions that night had tragic and far-reaching consequences for all involved as well as their friends and families.

"Justice has now been served on a dangerous individual, Christian is starting a prison sentence and no longer able to harm anyone.

"I hope it brings closure and reassurance to the victims' families who have been supportive throughout the investigation and shown a true courage."

GUILTY: Foster Christian (left) was assisted by Naomi Toro (above)

TRAGIC: Victim Natasha Sadler-Ellis was described as "a free spirit"

WEAPON: The knife used by Christian to kill his victims

REVIEW: Medway MP and minister Tracey Crouch has announced a review of machines including Fixed Odds Betting Terminals as the Labour Party calls for the maximum stake to be reduced

Crouch launches fresh review of controversial betting terminals

A government probe into gambling machines was this week welcomed by councillors on both sides of the chamber in Medway, where a self-exclusion scheme that has spread nationally was first born

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS hit the jackpot this week after the government announced a review of controversial high street gambling machines.

Fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) have been the bane of problem gamblers in recent years, with their ability to make punters lose as much as £300 every minute.

The terminals, dubbed "the crack cocaine of gambling" allow players to bet anything up to £100 on a spin of a virtual roulette wheel, in an activity that barely lasts 20 seconds.

There have even been reports of them being used by criminals to launder money – feeding their 'dirty' cash through the machines, losing a little, and then cashing out with the vast majority of their stake.

They can then collect a printed ticket showing they have gambled that day – meaning that if stopped by police, they can legitimately justify carrying hundreds of pounds in rolled-up cash.

Stop the FOBTs, a branch of the Campaign for Better Gambling, has long called for a review of policy and now it appears the government is beginning to take steps to tackle the problem.

The review, announced by gambling minister Tracey Crouch, will assess concerns about the harm FOBTs can cause either to players or the communities in which they are located, as well as other rules on gaming machines across the industry.

It will also cover gambling advertising and the protection of children and vulnerable people.

Announcing a call for evidence, Mrs Crouch, who is also a Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford, said this week: "It is important that gambling regulations strike the right balance between allowing the industry to contribute to the economy and enable people to bet responsibly whilst ensuring consumers and communities are protected."

According to figures made available by Stop the FOBTs, as of June 2016, there were 645 FOBTs across Kent and Medway, in which a total of £172.5m had been inserted, with punters cumulatively losing some £34.5m.

Medway has long been a particular problem area, with the Rochester and Strood constituency producing the most troubling figures across the county – with £16.66m inserted across its 62 machines, generating public losses of £3.33m.

South Thanet was the next closest with £2.55m lost from £12.74m being inserted into 47 FOBTs.

It led to the unitary council introducing a cross-operator self-exclusion scheme, which was described by Conservative portfolio holder for planning, economic growth and regulation, Jane Chitty, as "pioneering".

She told KoS: "At a local level we have long been in discussions with the industry and they brought in a number of initiatives.

"Staff [at betting shops] became aware of people who were regularly going in there and acted in a way that was appropriate – they'd offer them a cup of tea or just a sit-down chat.

"Many of them then signed up for self-exclusion which meant all betting establishments were made aware that these people were not to come in and play, and a great deal of credit must go to those people who identified they had a problem.

"But we were pioneers and it's something to be proud of as we now see similar work being carried out in other areas of the UK.

"Medway is always proactive in identifying problems that need to be addressed and Tracey Crouch has carried that on."

The work is supported by parties on both sides of the chamber, with Labour campaigning both locally and nationally to reduce the maximum stake on the machines to £2.

Medway party leader Vince Maple echoed comments made by shadow culture secretary Tom Watson suggesting the machines exploit areas of deprivation and poverty.

"I'm pleased to see we've got this very long overdue review happening," he told KoS.

"I have been speaking for a number of years about this and every time I have residents contacting me with devastating stories of people losing their homes, work and families.

"We need the review to deliver because having these high stakes machines with quick turnarounds of £100 every 20 seconds on our high streets is totally unacceptable.

"Yes, people can do that online and I hope that can be looked at as well, but I am primarily concerned about communities.

"Bookmakers have had a proliferation in areas of deprivation and we have some of the highest in the country here.

"Until recently one particular bookmaker had four shops within a 400m radius of Chatham High Street – it is, in my view, completely irresponsible.

"I've always said, I'm not anti-gambling, I'm anti-problem gambling."

Maidstone MP Helen Grant, who worked as minister prior to Mrs Crouch's appointment, also welcomed the review but felt it needed to be done over a greater period of time.

"Given the comprehensive nature of the review I would have preferred the evidence collecting period to be longer than the proposed six weeks," she said.

"It is critical that any policy decisions are carefully thought out and based on the evidence and not at the whim of emotive knee-jerk reactions.

"I am also encouraged by the broad nature of the review to encompass more than just stake and prize limits by considering location, local authority powers, social responsibility measures and advertising.

"It is very important that government continues to assess regulation in the gambling industry to ensure that individuals can enjoy the pastime and society can reap the economic benefits whilst protecting those who are vulnerable to the dangers of problem gambling."

Ms Grant frequently talked about giving local authorities more powers to refuse applications and stop new betting shops opening during her time as minister, and it is a concept backed by Cllr Maple.

"I'm a big advocate of localism and empowering communities, be that from central government to local government or local government to communities," he said.

"It was great to hear Ed Miliband last year recognising us calling for these changes and we want the people of Medway to have more of a say in how their high streets work.

"People feel disenfranchised from politics because they feel they don't have a say on things affecting their quality of life."

However, the Association of British Bookmakers suggests some perceptions are unfair, pointing out there are now fewer betting shops than at any time since 2003, with the number of FOBTs also falling by 0.5 per cent in the past year.

It claims the average gross profit for bookmakers on gaming machines is equivalent to just £12 per hour, before any expenses and contribution to overhead, with an average loss on machines of just £6.75 and the average session lasting around 10 minutes.

The body also argued the average stake placed on a machine is only £5.13.

A spokesperson added: "We welcome an evidence based and broad review of the gambling industry.

"We will be submitting detailed evidence on the elements relevant to high street betting shops and our six million customers.

"Since the last review in 2013, we have worked closely with the government and Gambling Commission to introduce and develop a range of new responsible gambling measures in betting shops including our pioneering work with Medway Council that helped shape the new national self-exclusion scheme.

"The vast majority of people gamble responsibly and we hope that politicians do not seek to penalise those who enjoy their leisure time in betting shops."

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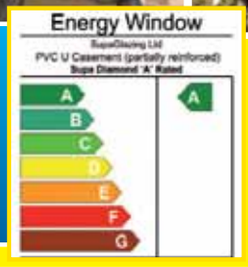

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Celebrations as Boris' plans for estuary airport are grounded

As he gave the green light to a third runway at Heathrow this week, transport secretary Chris Grayling confirmed the government has 'no intention' of discussing Boris Island any more – much to the joy of politicians across Medway...

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

PLANS for an airport in the Thames Estuary appear to have finally been quashed once and for all as the government this week backed proposals for a third runway at Heathrow.

Foreign secretary Boris Johnson has long campaigned for an airport, notoriously known as 'Boris Island', on the Isle of Grain in Medway but his plans have frequently been met with vociferous opposition.

And as transport secretary Chris Grayling gave the green light to Heathrow expansion on Tuesday morning, he all but ruled out Boris Island as a viable option, claiming "the government has no intention of re-opening that discussion".

The news was welcomed across Medway, whose unitary council has fought the proposals for more than 20 years.

Conservative leader Alan Jarrett told KoS: "It's certainly a huge boost and after two decades of arguing about it this is a great relief.

"But there's always a 'what if' and none of us can relax until they start pouring concrete – it's not over and there's a long way to go.

"We'll keep our eyes and ears open and work with our MPs and we'll just have to see what happens because these are interesting political times."

Cllr Jarrett told us earlier in the year it had set aside £15,000 in its budget as a 'fighting fund' should the plans ever re-appear on the table, but said the authority now has enough confidence not to include such a package.

Following Mr Grayling's announcement, the leader said: "We won't be continuing with that.

"But even though it's only a small amount of money it's definitely positive that it can be re-invested given recent budget constraints - any remaining money will be useful."

It was Rochester and Strood MP Kelly Tolhurst who probed the transport secretary into rejecting the proposals, asking in the House of Commons this week: "Now this decision has been made, can my constituents now be assured that the blight to their homes that has been suffered for over a decade by the threat of a peninsula, or estuary airport, that these proposals are now finally dead?"

Mr Grayling said in response: "The airports commission looked very carefully at these issues, looked at the issue of an estuary airport in the Thames, came to the view that it was not a viable option.

"I have looked at this issue carefully and I share that view.

"The government has no intention of re-opening that discussion."

Speaking afterwards, Ms Tolhurst said: "The delay on the airport capacity decision has been a burden on so many local residents' lives for too long and this confirmation will finally give the community the relief we have all been waiting for.

"The proposed 'Boris Island' airport would have devastated our north Kent region, bulldozed beloved village communities and our beautiful nature spots, as well as bringing further chaos to our local infrastructure.

"The government has made the correct decision given the infrastructure and links already in place.

"I am delighted that we can now all move on and instead refocus on efforts local issues that matter."

Fellow Conservative MP Rehman Chishti, who represents the Gillingham and Rainham

SUCCESS: Rochester and Strood MP Kelly Tolhurst and Medway Council leader Alan Jarrett (right) have expressed their joy as plans for an airport in the Thames Estuary were dismissed

constituency, added: "I very much welcome the statement by the minister which shows respect for the workings of the independent Davies Commission which had previously rejected the bizarre, pie-in-the-sky idea of an estuary airport because of delivery, structural and environmental concerns.

"I thank the minister for making the right decision on the evidence and also in the national interest."

However, the former Mayor of London, Mr Johnson, continued to bang the drum for the project as he described the plans for Heathrow as "undeliverable" and likely to be stopped.

"I think in the long run we will have to go back to those ideas because, I'm afraid to say, Heathrow is not in the right place and I'm afraid a third runway is undeliverable," he said.

"The day when the bulldozers appear is a long way off, if indeed they ever materialise to build that third runway.

"I think it very likely it will be stopped.

"We have been here before and we are going to see an inevitable fight in the courts and I think the chances of success for the proponents of the third runway are not high."

The Thames Estuary plan was officially rejected by the Airports Commission in September 2014.

The scheme, championed by Mr Johnson as early as 2009, was ruled out after the commission said the proposal had "substantial disadvantages that collectively outweigh its potential benefits".

But speaking at the Foreign Office, Mr Johnson said: "We can satisfy the need for connectivity to the rest of the world without, as I say, creating an unacceptable erosion of the quality of

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

life for the people of this city, and we should have started that project years ago with a 24-hour, four-runway, hub airport in the Thames Estuary - that is the answer."

Mr Grayling said: "It would be impossible to deliver a project like this without some people disagreeing with the strategy.

"We've taken a view that where people have direct constituency concerns and interests they should have the freedom to articulate those long-held views.

"But this is about taking the right decision for the United Kingdom."

Asked if he believed the third runway would be built, Mr Grayling replied: "Absolutely".

The decision was welcomed by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, which drives economic growth in Kent and Medway.

Chairman Christian Brodie said: "As the country now looks to forge new and strengthen existing trading relations, the decision to back Heathrow is the right one.

"Heathrow as a global hub and an economic driver is what other countries aspire to have and we must support its long term future.

"It connects the UK with the rest of the world and secures the supply chains that underpin the success of many business and communities throughout the south east.

"However, we recognise that with a further year's consultation and planning process, the timeline for a new runway at Heathrow is still a decade away.

"What business needs is the reassurance that its delivery won't be delayed any further so they can plan their own investments."

A public consultation will now be held on the impact of a third runway at the west London hub before the final decision is put to MPs for a vote in the winter of 2017/18.

A new runway could be operational by 2025.

Tory MP and this year's London mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith, meanwhile, honoured his pledge to resign and force a by-election in Richmond Park and Kingston North in protest at the outcome.

The government has proposed that a six-and-a-half-hour ban on scheduled night flights will be introduced for the first time, as well as more stringent night noise restrictions.

The timing of the ban will be determined through a consultation.

The Department for Transport (DfT) claimed that the new runway will bring economic benefits to passengers and the wider economy worth up to £61 billion and bosses at Heathrow said they were ready to deliver a third runway that is "fair, affordable and secures the benefits of expansion for the whole of the UK".

Mr Grayling concluded: "The step that the government is taking is truly momentous.

"I am proud that after years of discussion and delay this government is taking decisive action to secure the UK's place in the global aviation market - securing jobs and business opportunities for the next decade and beyond.

"We believe a third runway for Heathrow is the best option for our future.

"It's the best for the whole country to create better connectivity to the different regions of the United Kingdom and to provide the best trade links to the world."

GATWICK CAMPAIGNERS REJOICE AT AIRPORT VERDICT

THE expansion of Gatwick Airport was an alternative proposal on the table for the government this week, and campaigners welcomed the announcement that it is to be saved from a second runway - but pledged to continue their fight.

Sally Pavey, chairwoman of the campaign group Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emissions (CAGNE), said local residents were relieved but they would be monitoring the reaction of the airport's owners.

The 50-year-old said: ''From the point of view of the residents of Sussex, Surrey and Kent, we are very much relieved, but we wouldn't wish it upon anybody.

''We are delighted they have listened to the facts, the facts spoke loud and clear that Gatwick's proposals were flawed.

''They have looked at Gatwick four times and each time it's been dismissed.

''It's the wrong side of London and the Achilles' heel has always been that Gatwick sits on one railway line and one road and the railway line cannot be expanded.

''So the congestion is there and it wouldn't have coped with not only the normal growth but also growth in passengers.''

Tonbridge and Malling MP Tom Tugendhat backed the decision but urged the transport secretary to provide reassurance to his constituents living on the flightpath.

''Please assure the people of west Kent, particularly the residents of Edenbridge, Penshurst and Tonbridge, that the decision on Gatwick is not one that's going to come up in the next few years and therefore continue to blight their lives,'' he said.

''Could [you] perhaps talk a little about the six-and-a-half hours relief [you're] offering, quite rightly, to the people of Heathrow and could [you] not extend that ban on night flights to Gatwick, where we suffer all the time?''

Mr Grayling said in response: ''I'm very aware of the issues around Gatwick, the issue of noise, and this is something that is very much on my desk.

''I've spoken to the CAA [Civil Aviation Authority] about how best the right balance could be found for residents that are in the take-off routes and the landing routes from Gatwick Airport.''

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Marlowe given co-author credit

Canterbury's most famous son is set to be named as an official contributor to William Shakespeare's plays on Henry VI, and a Kent academic says there may be further recognition of his work to come

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CANTERBURY's most famous son is to be credited on a re-release of some of Britain's most famous literature.

In the latest twist in a row that has lasted hundreds of years, Christopher Marlowe was this week named as a co-author of William Shakespeare's three plays on Henry VI.

The playwright has long been suspected as being a major contributor to the Bard's efforts and Oxford University Press has now confirmed the pair will jointly appear on the title pages in a new collection of works.

The decision for the upcoming edition, entitled New Oxford Shakespeare, comes after the experts using modern analytical methods revisited the question of whether Shakespeare collaborated with others.

The scholars working on the collection found that Marlowe's contribution has been verified "strongly and clearly enough", as research suggests Shakespeare's collaboration with others was previously underestimated.

Research conducted by 23 international scholars concluded that 17 of 44 Shakespeare plays were written with the help of another author, or authors.

The publisher said that "identifying Marlowe's hand in the Henry VI plays is just one of the fresh features of this project".

Dr Peter Merchant, an English lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, says this week's announcement is far from a conclusion and expects the debate to continue to run.

"It's certainly the latest part of a controversy which has been going on for many years," he told KoS. "Questions first rose in the 18th century about authorship of those plays.

"It's ironic that three plays chronicling The Wars of the Roses should have been dragged dramatically back into a battle over authorship which ranges the White Rose of the Marlovians against the Red Rose of the Shakespeare purists.

"Critics who have led the way argue co-authorship is much more common than previously thought, so there's quite a lot up for grabs.

"It's like staring at a wall, not knowing how many people painted it - did the same person apply the undercoat and the gloss?

"I think the mystery over the authorship will thicken, because however close probability manages to get to proof, neither side will accept the version put forward by the other.

"We shall be left with a theatrical whodunnit which will run and run because, although it can be shown that both Shakespeare and Marlowe had the tools and the time to write these plays, motive and opportunity aren't quite enough to secure a conviction."

Marlowe's legacy in the city where he grew up is significant – a society was founded to help campaign for recognition, while the theatre which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary boasts his name, as does a house at The King's School where he was educated.

Dr Merchant believes the move is a boost to the city and proves that people are still passionate about authorship, even hundreds of years after the event.

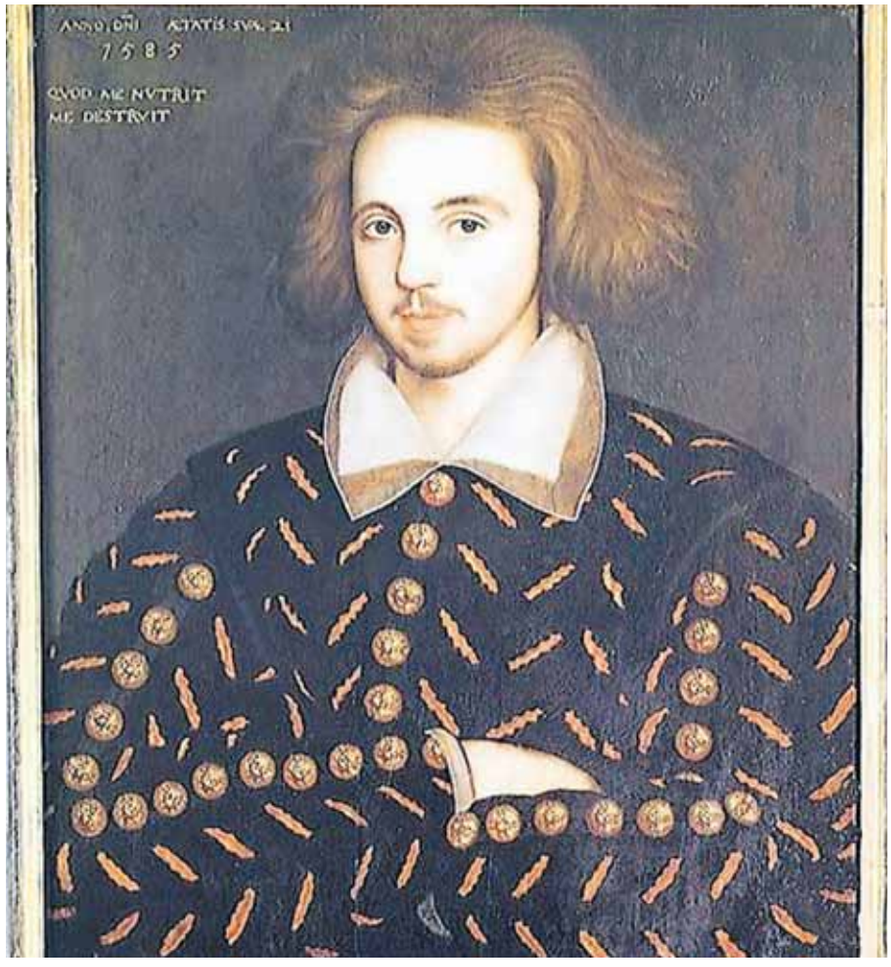
"I think this all shows that people are trying to fill in gaps because he had a fairly mysterious life," he said.

"Anything that attracts attention to Marlowe must be good news but he has arguably been eclipsed by Chaucer recently [a statue of the Canterbury Tales author was unveiled in the city earlier this month].

"It's good because it shows people, if we didn't already know, how complex determining authorship is.

"Speculation is going to be rife and that's not a bad thing for Canterbury – maybe Ben Elton will write a new series of comedies. Henry VI was shown on the BBC on successive Saturday nights [in The Hollow Crown series, filmed at Penshurst Place] and none of us expected it to get much of an audience but it was talked about in the media quite a lot.

"It seems television production will create more momentum for revivals of these plays in the theatre."



REWARD: Controversial Elizabethan playwright Christopher 'Kit' Marlowe was baptised and educated in Canterbury and is finally being recognised for help given to William Shakespeare, the man regarded by many as our greatest ever writer

WHO WAS CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE?

THOUGH Marlowe's exact birth date is not known, records show he was baptised in St George's Church in Canterbury on February 26, 1564.

Son of John Marlowe, a shoemaker, and mother Katherine, the daughter of a clergyman from Dover, Marlowe studied Latin, Greek, history, mathematics and music until he was 15 before leaving Kent for Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

On leaving university, Marlowe moved to London where he began to write seriously.

Although the details are unclear as to when any of his known works were actually written, Tamburlaine the Great – Part One, had its first public performance in 1587.

Marlowe was also alleged to have worked as a spy and in 1588 was said to be on board one of Sir Francis Drake's ships when Drake went out to meet the Spanish Armada.

His other famous plays written and performed between 1588 and 1593, included Edward the Second, Doctor Faustus, The Jew of Malta and The Massacre of Paris.

Marlowe was controversially believed to be an atheist, and rumours that he was a homosexual contributed to the mystery surrounding his later life and eventual death.

He had many brushes with the law and in early May 1593, a poem mocking immigrant Protestants was posted on the wall of a London church. Suggestions within the text pointed to Marlowe.

The following day his fellow writer Thomas Kyd was arrested and his home searched. The authorities found heretical documents denouncing God in his room and Kyd was tortured. He eventually gave up Marlowe as an atheist.

A warrant for Marlowe's arrest was then made by the Privy Council and the playwright handed himself in shortly after. Ten days later he would be dead.

He is said to have been lured to a tavern in Deptford by three men he knew, before being goaded into a fight and stabbed above the right eye, killing him instantly.

Marlowe's killer was named as Ingram Frizer, who, despite his arrest for murder, was pardoned by a jury for acting in self-defence.

There are many conspiracy theories about his death, including one suggesting Marlowe was killed at the behest of several members of the Privy Council, who feared he might reveal them to be atheists too.

Another speculates Queen Elizabeth I ordered his assassination because of his refusal to believe in God, while others suspect he was stabbed by Frizer during a simple fight over money.

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Pioneering broadcaster hails county attitude to dementia

Angela Rippon paid tribute to work being done across Kent as she visited Sheerness to host Dementia Friendly Awards

By Adele Couchman
adele.couchman@archant.co.uk

ALZHEIMER'S Society ambassador Angela Rippon has praised families, charities and businesses around Kent for the support they offer to those living with dementia.

The campaigner and pioneering broadcast journalist hosted the Dementia Friendly Kent Awards at the Oasis Academy in Sheerness on Monday afternoon – an initiative to recognise the work going on across the county to make life easier for those living with the condition.

DIRECTOR: Anne Tidmarsh

The 72-year-old presenter, who lost her mother Edna to dementia in 2009, spoke of the greater awareness and understanding of the disease that affects over 850,000 people in the UK.

"Up until about 10 to 12 years ago there was a very strong stigma against dementia because people didn't understand the disease and didn't want to talk about it – but all of that is changing," she said.

"As a journalist myself, I'm ashamed to say that one of the very first reporters I spoke to about dementia in 2004 actually said to me, 'aren't you embarrassed to be talking about this?'

"She called it a mental illness, and didn't understand how it's a physical disease of the brain.

"Around that time that's what people thought, and that's what made me realise there was an awful lot of ignorance surrounding the disease.

"But now, there is not anything like as much as there was. I made a documentary this year about it, it's on the radio, and it's in the newspapers everyday.

"More and more people are prepared to talk about dementia so there's more and more information about it. I am happy to be a part of making that happen."

Ms Rippon co-chairs the dementia friendly communities committee – a programme which facilitates the creation of communities across the UK that pull together to become more inclusive of people with dementia.

The committee was set up after the former prime minister David Cameron issued a national challenge on dementia in 2012.

At this week's awards, the former BBC news anchor praised the response of those across the county who play a vital role in supporting those with dementia, raising awareness of the condition and making the county more dementia friendly.

She said: "Here in Kent you have been hearing a microcosm of what is happening nationally. I believe the future for dementia, for the understanding of dementia, lies with our young people.

"If we can take the word stigma out of their vocabulary, they are going to grow up knowing about it, recognising it, understanding it.

"When we started the project four and a half years ago to get dementia awareness into schools, one of the regions was here in Kent – two of our first pioneer schools were here in this county.

"We now have just under 600 schools throughout Britain, who are involved in our dementia friendly programme creating that dementia friendly generation.

"I'm thrilled for all the work this school has done to make it more dementia friendly."

Anne Tidmarsh is the director of older people and physical disability for Kent County Council and the chair of the Kent Dementia Action Alliance – a partnership including KCC that works together to make Kent a better place for people living with dementia.

She said: "Each locality has their own action alliance, where organisations like the voluntary sector, people with dementia, shops, supermarkets, the fire and the police service come together to make Kent more dementia friendly.

STIGMA: Angela Rippon wants to

"There is a lot to do to make Kent completely dementia friendly as we have an ageing population, and therefore more people with the disease.

"But we are raising more and more awareness and helping people

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tackle misconceptions about dementia and raising awareness about it in our schools and colleges

TOGETHER: Former BBC anchor works with schools to raise awareness

understand what dementia is.

"If you look at Bluewater shopping centre, for example, they are dementia friendly. That means that shop keepers don't automatically think somebody is weird or drunk because they don't understand what they're doing, they think 'could they have dementia?'

"There are also supermarkets, like Tesco and Sainsburys, who staff trained staff to think dementia instead of assuming people have other problems."

Yet although more people have been diagnosed with the condition since the alliance started, Ms Tidmarsh explains that a skills shortage and cuts to local authority budgets are the two main challenges that lie ahead in improving people's quality of life with dementia.

"Public sector funding is diminishing, so having enough care homes for people with dementia is a challenge," she said.

"Finding the right workforce of people who want to work with people with dementia is difficult, and that's partially related to money.

"There is also a lack of nursing skills nationally, but also in Kent. To start a home for people with dementia, if you can't find people with the right skillset that's a real challenge.

"If we want to keep people in their own homes, we also need to find domiciliary carers who are able to work with that - and that's not easy.

"Another challenge is how you reach people to give them the advice and information that's available.

"Everybody can get respite care and we have carers support, but it's still really difficult to know if people are aware of what's out there."

The Oasis Academy on the Isle of Sheppey is recognised as a dementia friendly school due to the academy's role in reaching out to those who have dementia.

Lauren Glock is a former student who helped come up with the idea of a dementia cafe - an initiative run six times a year at the Oasis Academy where residents of local care homes, their carers and families are invited to the school for a tea party.

"My great nan displayed traits of dementia and a family member wouldn't get her tested, so she didn't get to socialise very much," explained Miss Glock, who now studies at the University of Greenwich.

"We thought it would be a good idea for her to interact with other people, and that's where the idea of the cafe comes from."

Oasis Academy has been involved for the last three years in raising awareness of dementia, and won two top accolades at last year's Dementia Friendly Kent Awards hosted at the County Hall in Maidstone.

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Bonfire Night set to go off with a bang across county

Your essential guide to where, when and for how much you can take in some of the finest firework displays lighting up the Kent skyline over the next few days...

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

THERE are a whole host of fireworks displays taking place in Kent for Halloween and Bonfire Night this year.

And as the end of October and beginning of November approaches, the planning of your fireworks night should begin now.

Here, we have a list of the must-see fireworks displays happening in the county this year.

They are as follows:

Where: Quex Park Estate, Birchington.
Date: November 5.
Time: Admission opens at 5pm.
What: A night of family fun to a classical theme, two firework displays, fun fair, crafts, glow novelties, licensed bar, entertainers, food, drink and huge bonfire.
Entry prices: Adults £10, children £8, family £36.
Tickets: Call 07969 058951

Where: Viking Bay, Broadstairs.
Date: November 5.
Time: Admission opens 6pm, display commences at 10pm.
What: A traditional family firework display over Viking Bay (weather permitting).
Entry prices: Admission is free.
Tickets: Not needed.

Where: St Nicholas-at-Wade Bell Meadow, Birchington.
Date: November 6.
Time: 6pm-8pm.
What: St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre Parish Council present the villages annual firework display.
Entry prices: Admission is free.
Tickets: Not needed.

Where: Minister in Sheppey Primary School, Sheppey.
Date: November 4.
Time: 6pm-8pm.
What: Come along to support Minster and enjoy a safe, family orientated friendly yet exciting display.
Bonfire, bar, BBQ and refreshments all available for your enjoyment.
Entry prices: Adults £5, children £3.
Tickets: Available from the school office and Sheerness Toy Store or call 01795 667315.

Where: Leeds Castle, Maidstone.
When: November 5-6.
Time: Last admission at 5pm.
What: Two nights of spectacular displays with moving images, music and incredible fireworks over the historic castle. Let the countdown begin for the start of this year's display!
Entry prices: Adults £20, children £13.50, under 4s go free.
Tickets: Call the box office on 01622 880008.

Where: Rodmersham Primary School, Sittingbourne.
When: November 4.
Time: Gates open 5.30pm.
What: Rodmersham Fireworks Spectacular!
Not only is there a fireworks display but there's also a fire show, BBQ, jacket potatoes, bar, hot and cold drinks, and glow sticks.
Entry prices: Adults £5, children £5, under 2s go free, family ticket (four people max two adults) £15.
Tickets: Available from the school office from October 31 or at the gate on the night.

Where: Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells.
When: November 5.
Time: Gates open 5.30pm with fireworks starting at 7pm.
What: Come and sample local food and drink, and thrillseekers can enjoy a variety of fairground rides.
Entry prices: Adults £6, children £4.
Tickets: Can be purchased by visiting www.rtwrt.org/tickets or on the day.

BANG: Dozens of displays are expected to attract thousands of spectators from across the county

Where: Sevenoaks High Street.
When: November 5.
Time: 5pm.
What: Live entertainment and family fun for all ages including stalls serving food and many other things you can buy for the run up to Christmas.
Entry prices: Adults £8, children £5, family (four people) £21, under 4s go free.
Tickets: Can be purchased via www.sevenoaksfireworks.co.uk/

Where: Ashford Rugby Club.
When: November 5.
Time: Gates open 5pm.
What: Fireworks display.
Entry prices: Adults £6, children £3, family (four people) £15, under 5s go free.
Tickets: Can be purchased from www.ashfordrugbyclubboxoffice.co.uk/

Where: Bridge, Canterbury.
When: November 5.
Time: Gates open at 5.30pm.
What: Locally sourced hot food and refreshments for sale on the night. No access through the field via the school road.
Entry prices: Adults £6, children £3, family (four people) £15, under 4s go free.
Tickets: www.canterbury.co.uk/events/Canterbury-Bridge-Fireworks-Bonfire-Night

Where: Capel-Le-Ferne Primary School, Folkestone.
When: November 4.
Time: 6pm.
Entry prices: Adults £5.50, children £4.50.
Tickets: You can purchase tickets on the night.

Where: Commercial Place, Gravesend.
When: November 4.
Time: 6pm-9pm.
What: Fireworks to music on the River Thames along the Riverside Leisure area.
Entry prices: Free, plus free parking after 6pm.

Where: Central Park, Dartford.
When: November 5
Time: 5pm-10pm
Entry prices: Advanced tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children.
Tickets: Via Dartford Lions Club.

Where: Recreation Ground, Edenbridge.
When: November 5.
Time: 6.30pm.
What: More than 1,000 flaming torches illuminate a procession of 20 floats and walking parties as they make their way through Edenbridge High Street to a fireworks display and a huge bonfire. There will be two guys – the first is guy himself, the second will be an infamous celebrity.
Entry prices: Adults £8, children £4, under 5s go free.
Tickets: You can purchase tickets on the door.

Where: Teynham Primary School.
When: November 5.
Time: 6pm.
Entry prices: Free.

Where: Fireworks Flex Festival, Rochester.
When: November 5.
Time: 1pm-11pm.
What: All-day event and fireworks night extravaganza, with performances from General Levy, Martin Ikin, David Zowie, So Solid Crew and more.
Entry prices: From £25, minimum age 18.
Tickets: https://billetto.co.uk/events/145263.

Where: New Burlington Ground, Newington.
When: November 5.
Time: 5.30pm.
What: Bonfire, BBQ and firework display.
Entry prices: £5 per person.
Tickets: Pay at the door.

Where: Maidstone Grammar School.
When: November 5.
Time: 6pm.
Entry prices: Adults £8, children £4.
Tickets: You can purchase tickets on the door.

Where: Kent Life, Maidstone.
When: November 5.
Time: 7pm.
What: The evening will be entertaining for all ages with activities including face painting, water zorbing, children's fairground rides, glow sticks galore, and a licensed bar.
Entry prices: Adults £11, children £9, under 3s go free.
Tickets: www.kentlife.org.uk/mobile/events/2016/11/05/bonfire_and_firework_spectacular.aspx

Where: Kent County Cricket Ground, Canterbury.
When: November 5.
Time: 5pm-9.30pm.
What: A night of entertainment followed by a firework display at 7:15pm.
Entry prices: Adults £8, children (under 14) £4.
Tickets: On the night, on the door.

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Communities come together to celebrate Festival of Light

Arts event in Dartford helps promote key values of friendship and equality

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

FIREWORKS lit up the sky last week as communities across Dartford came together to celebrate the town's eighth Festival of Light.

Organised by Cohesion Plus in partnership with Kent Equality Cohesion Council with the support of Dartford Borough Council and Arts Council England, the festival aims to create togetherness through the arts and promote key values of respect, excellence, friendship and equality.

In the build up to the festival artistic partners Same Sky Arts delivered creative workshops in 12 local schools with some 650 young people benefitting as residents prepared for the most ambitious event to date.

Between 6pm and 6.30pm on Friday there was entertainment on One Bell Corner where Phase 5 Steel Band and Crocodile Brass both performed on the High Street while the young people lit up their lanterns.

CELEBRATION: Drummers helped bring the festival to life

TOGETHER: Organiser Gurvinder

Outside the train station Bloco Fogo Samba welcomed train commuters back with a high energy Samba drumming performance.

A lantern parade led by Dartford mayor John Burrell, MP Gareth Johnson, council leader Jeremy Kite, festival organiser Gurvinder Sandher and a dozen local schools then took place - moving from the High Street via Hythe Street, the Orchard Shopping Centre and Market Street to Central Park where it came to a close by the bandstand.

A series of short performances and presentations to the schools followed before the evening climaxed with a fireworks and lights display.

Mr Sandher, who also ran for the role of Kent's police and crime com-

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Sandher and council leader Jeremy Kite enjoy the festivities as fireworks brought the festival to a close

LIGHT: Children took part in a lantern parade in the north Kent town

missioner as an independent earlier this year, said: "I am really proud of how working with Dartford Borough Council we have been able to evolve the Festival of Light over the years.

"This year was one of our biggest to date and is an excellent example of how the arts can be used to bring communities together.

"Everyone who took part should be proud of what we all achieved in Dartford this year on a limited budget and next year working with our partners funding permitting I have ideas to develop the festival further."

Some days the freezer is far enough to go for something tasty to eat.

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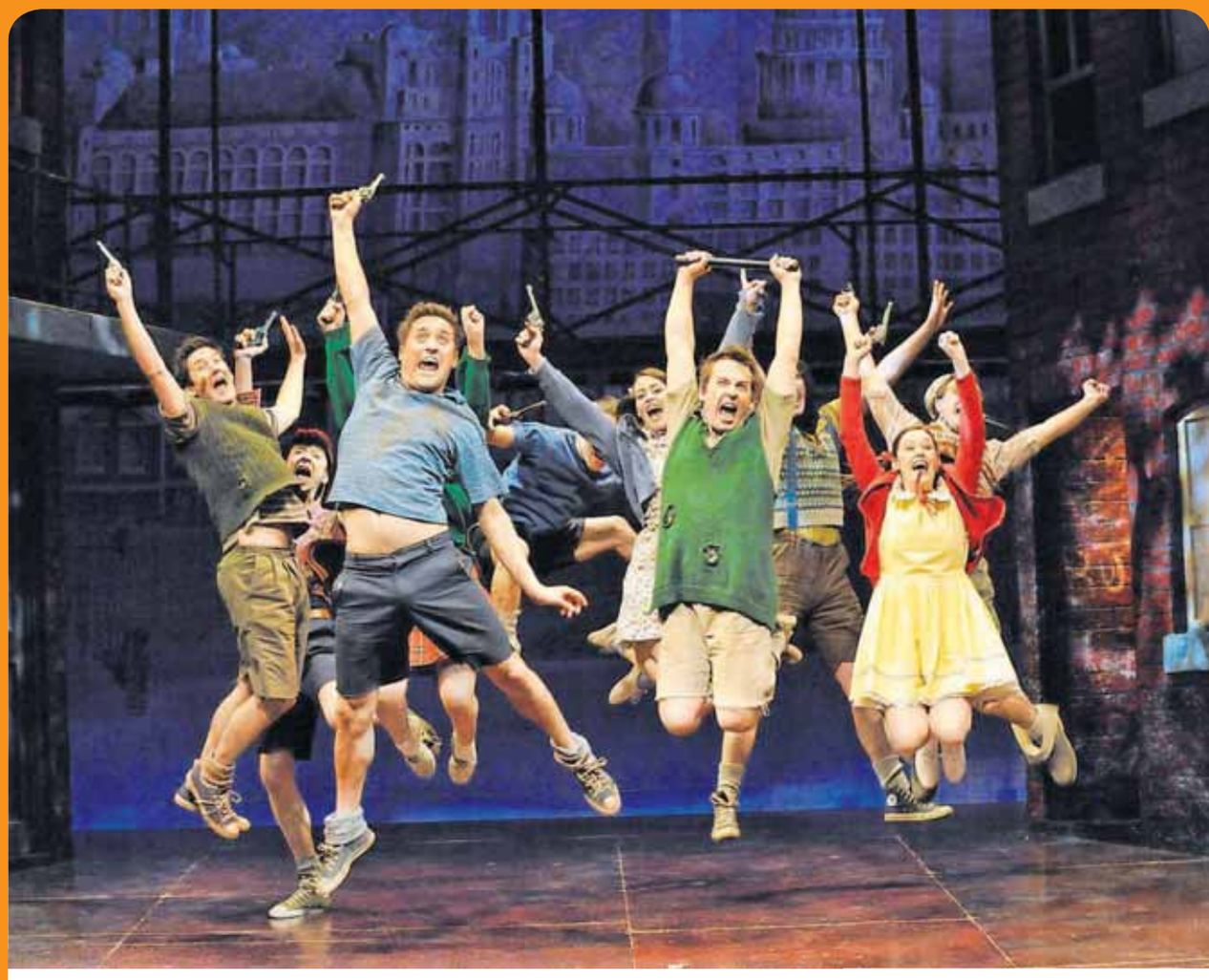

POWERFUL: The cast are currently in rehearsals ahead of the tour's opening night on November 1

Smash hit musical Blood Brothers is to visit Dartford

Pop singer and actress Lyn Paul talks to KoS about her role as Mrs Johnstone...

INTERNATIONALLY renowned musical, Blood Brothers is making a return to Dartford this autumn, and along with it comes Lyn Paul.

Reaching fame in the 1970s as a member of pop group New Seekers, Ms Paul soon turned her talents to theatre.

No stranger to Blood Brothers, Ms Paul returns to the iconic role she held before, Mrs Johnstone. She first played the part on the West End in 1997, and continued to do so through to 2012, before taking roles in Cabaret in 2013, and Boy George's Taboo.

Speaking of her return to the role, Ms Paul said: "It's two and a half years since I last played it. It's like greeting an old friend, but terrifying at the same time."

You'd wonder how someone who has kept a role for nearly 15 years could be terrified of it, but the actress explains: "I was lying in bed the other night going through the opening song and I reached one part, but for the life of me couldn't remember the rest of it, and I had to get up and go downstairs to get the script and go through it. At four o'clock in the morning, it was ridiculous."

Ms Paul revealed that it was a letter she wrote to director Bill Kenwright the first time round that landed her the role.

"I wrote to Bill and asked him if he would consider me for the role of Mrs J, he sent me a letter back by return post, and less than three weeks later I was waiting on stage at the Phoenix Theatre (West End) to start rehearsals and I cannot tell you what it did to me," tells Ms Paul.

"I'd never acted and I thought 'Oh my god, I cannot do this!'"

Developing acting skills didn't prove too much of a struggle for the pop star though as she says: "You're not being yourself. When you go on stage and you're playing a character, it just seems to happen. Especially Mrs J because I can relate to her so well being a northern mum and having gone through a lot of struggles in my life, lots of lows."

With Blood Brothers being such a moving tale, Ms Paul tells of a time an audience member told her how touching the production had been.

She said: "I got a letter once from a woman who had a son who was in jail, and she said she sat watching it and it was the only time she'd ever seen anybody portray on stage a jail sequence that's exactly as it is. And she said she cried and cried.

"If that's one example, can you imagine how other people must relate to other pars of it. Everyone's gone through highs and low and a lot of what Mrs J's gone through. And Mrs Lyons. And Mickey and Eddie."

Ms Paul attributes Blood Brothers with the successful theatre career she's had.

"Mrs J in Blood Brothers is such an iconic role to play, so as though it may sound as if I'm crawling here, it's changed my life," she said.

"It gave me a new career. I was going up and down the country doing cabaret and Bill took me away from all that and I've never gone back. It's the biggest thing that has ever happened to me."

Blood Brothers is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from November 21 to 26.

Tickets can be purchased from the box office by visiting orchardtheatre.co.uk or calling 01322 220000.

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JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424675**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

SUE, outgoing lady, enjoys life, likes meals, holidays, WLTM mature gentleman to share interests and spend quality time together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424669**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady, young looking 60s, genuine and kind, seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424671**

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363**

CLARE, 41, attractive, lovely eyes, nice figure, smoker, likes beach walks, socialising, occasional gigs, WLTM a nice gent, any age over 40, for wining and dining, to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424595**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424497**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424495**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 423035**

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424493**

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curvy lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 424385**

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

JO, mature understanding worldly Essex lady, seeks generous gent for regular fun, discretion assured. **Text only Mailbox: 5320299**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424491**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3014 Box 424543**

PRESENTABLE divorced lady, young 60, many interests, animal lover, seeks outgoing, cheerful, honest, smart looking man, for cultural times. **Text only Mailbox: 5576629**

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WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTM gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no time-wasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424337**

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424335**

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLTM chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424333**

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424331**

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at present, interested? Ha ha got to phone to find out more! Call Jan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424195**

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTM a reliable, sincere man for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5443434**

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLTM someone to share interests with, and quality time. **Text only Mailbox: 5552642**

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, travelling, holidays, arts, looking for a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424147**

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, jiving, WLTM single gentleman for companionship and possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423411**

WIDOW, 70s, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423359**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469**

GENUINE lady, 67, slim, GSOH, caring, honest, active, likes most things in life, days out, countryside, animals, long walks, visiting interesting places, cooking and holidays, WLTM a caring, honest male with GSOH, 67-73, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423289**

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393**

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curvy figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. **Text only Mailbox: 5512493**

RITA, , seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403**

ANGELA, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039**

BRIAN, 6ft3, fit, bit grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423483**

MALE, 53, 5ft6, single, hardworking, looking for slim/small lady, 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423363**

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793**

ANDREW, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLTM a women, 40-70, for discreet fun, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423271**

GARY, 53, caring, likes snooker, bowls, looking for a nice woman to meet and fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423145**

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

TONY black male, 58, 5ft6, med build, n/s, seeking a local mature fun loving female 40/75 in the Chatham/Gillingham area for discreet fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5459052**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

TALL single early 60's male looking for pure hearted lady for LTR. **Text only Mailbox: 5496781**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

MALE, widower, n/s, would love to meet buxom friendly lady, up to 70, for friendship at first, interests include all types of music, walking, quizzes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422957**

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905**

WRITER, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889**

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust, to go on holidays with and spend time together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699**

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643**

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587**

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

MALE, 54, shyish, looking for fun times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

SLIM, 5ft 6 white male WLTM 18 to 42 year old lady for friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5441709**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

Men Seeking

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59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424685**

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422**

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424683**

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424681**

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424679**

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTM lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424677**

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359**

ANDY, tall attractive male, looking for a naughty female, for fun with no strings attached. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424295**

MALE, 52, quiet nature, likes coastal walks, cinema, reading, WLTM lady for friendship and maybe romance. East Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424211**

RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fares, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207**

JOHN, 70, widower, lives in Broadstairs, Kent, slim, fit, active, young at heart, kind, caring and loving, likes country/beach walks, holidays, days out, theatre, eating out, music, animals, WLTM slim, attractive lady, to share interests and nice times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424043**

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905**

GENTLEMAN, 76yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet lady for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423645**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

BI male 68 slim looking for similar male who can accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 5585368**

WOULD Mick from Maidenhead get in touch with John from Northampton - lost your number. **Text only Mailbox: 4172093**

HI I'm Andrew, 5'9, slim longish hair WLTM men aged 55-80 for daytime fun. Bi-curio. Sittingbourne **Text only Mailbox: 5469911**

JAMES, 34, seeks dominant, slim, Canterbury/Thanet male, 30-40, likes reading, music, walking, films, eating out, nights in, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424485**

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Christmas with André Rieu to screen in multiple Kent cinemas

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

Dutch violinist and conductor, André Rieu is bringing a special Christmas concert to cinemas all over Kent.

The show, Christmas with André, features a 90-minute filmed Christmas concert plus live personal tour by Mr Rieu of Maastricht's Christmas highlights and Q&A with the host, Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins.

CinemaLive director Janelle Mason said: "Cinema audiences worldwide have responded so enthusiastically to seeing André Rieu and his wonderful orchestra and performers as large as life on the big screen in the Maastricht summer concert series.

"We're now very much looking forward to bringing cinema audiences some Christmas cheer André-style, including the chance to be led on a tour of Maastricht Christmas magic by André himself."

Speaking to Mr Rieu, he tells KoS why Christmas is so important to him.

He says: "It's all about the children (grandchildren) now, and they're so sweet. Three of them are seven years old, one is six, and the youngest was born last December, the perfect ages for Christmas."

TRADITIONAL: Andreé Rieu will take audiences on a Christmas journey through his home town

The performer tells of the Dutch Christmas tradition Sinterklaas.

"It's the most important day for most children as on December fifth Sinterklass brings them their presents. Don't confuse him with Santa Claus though, cause he comes on December 24 and is from Lapland. So the kids get more presents," reveals Mr Rieu.

When asked what audiences can should expect from his Christmas film, he said: "I will present my Maastricht (his home town) during Christmas time.

"I will b buying presents for my family and orchestra, and presenting the nice Limburg vlaai (a type of pie/tart)."

Mr Rieu says that this year his one Christmas wish is for "love, health and happiness for everyone."

Christmas with André is coming to cinemas including Tunbridge Well, Hawkhurst, Dartford, Rochester, and Maidstone.

A full list of providing cinemas, as well as ticket purchasing can be found by visiting www.andrerieu.com

Psychic's comedic show

SALLY Morgan, Britain's comedic psychic, is coming to Folkestone with her brand new show - Call Me Psychic.

The show celebrates her eighth year on the road.

Tickets from atgtickets.com

Folkestone Jazz Club

JIM Mullen, the Brit jazz award-winner, leads a night in Folkestone on November 1 alongside tenor sax man Dave Lewis and a variety of other musicians.

This jazz mix is set to start off November, with its concert at Folkestone Jazz Club.

For tickets, call 01303 277175.

Shawshank Redemption

THIS stage production based on the Stephen King novel The Shawshank Redemption, is coming to Bromley's Churchill Theatre from October 31 to November 5.

Visit churchilltheatre.co.uk

Todd Magic Geezer tour

THE story of a musical about a boxer called King Kong which electrified South Africa in the 1950s is coming to Broadstairs' Sarah Thorne Theatre Club Memorial Theatre from November 11-13.

The play has been produced for Broadstairs Dickens Players in association with Hags Ahoy.

www.kentandsussexcottages.co.uk

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Bake Off Jane book signing

FINALIST in The Great British Bake Off, Jane Beedle, will be signing copies of the show's cake book.

She will be at Bromley's Waterstones in intu Shopping Centre on October 29 at 1pm.

Totally Tina postponed

TRIBUTE to Tina Turner, Totally Tina, was due to take to the stage in Folkestone this October, but this date has now been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The show will now be coming to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on January 25, 2017.

For tickets, visit ticketmaster.co.uk

Musical Sunny Afternoon

SUNNY Afternoon is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on November 15-19, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from April 4-8, 2017.

For tickets, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or marlowetheatre.com.

Turin Brakes to play Kent

TURIN Brakes are bringing their seventh album tour to Kent venues.

The band will play at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on November 23, and Deal's Astor Theatre on November 25.

Tickets can be purchased from assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or theastor.org.

London Ballet Company present Poppy on stage

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

THE London Ballet Company are coming back to Tunbridge Wells this autumn with their production Poppy, which commemorates the souls who lost their lives during the First World War, and also in memory of the end of the Battle of the Somme.

On their last visit in October 2014 to Tunbridge Wells, The London Ballet Company performed their world premiere of Poppy at Royal Victoria Place (RVP) to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of the First World War.

Royal Victoria Place will once again support The London Ballet Company and will be sponsoring the forthcoming Poppy show at The Trinity Theatre.

Centre manager of RVP Nicky Blanchard said: "Poppy is an amazing and very moving show which when hosted here at RVP captivated the audience. The talent and skill of the dancers has to be seen to be believed. RVP is proud to once again support The London Ballet Company and wish them all the best for their performance at The Trinity Theatre."

This performance on November 17 at Tunbridge Wells' Trinity Theatre is on the eve of the end of The Battle of the Somme.

As a prelude, The London Ballet Company will be at Royal Victoria Place on October 29 and will be donating complimentary tickets to the first 10 shoppers who can show verification that they are descendants of any person who lost their life at the Battle of The Somme.

The ballet company's production of Poppy, now in its third year, portrays the havoc wreaked by war on ordinary people, seen through the innocent eyes of the child Poppy and follows a family in the cataclysmic turn of events of 1914.

The turmoil of family life forever changed, innocence lost, Poppy remains, like the flower for whom she was named.

To book tickets, visit thelondonballetcompany.com.

MOVING: The production portrays the turmoil of war

FOUNDER: Sophie Wright started the London Ballet Company

Two Hairy Bikers tackle chicken and egg dishes

Culinary duo took on the world to learn more about chicken and eggs, and now they have a book..

"WHY did the chicken cross the road, roll in the mud, come back across the road, and then cross the road again and roll in the mud again?" asks one half of The Hairy Bikers, Dave Myers.

"Cos he was a dirty double crosser!"

Spending time in the company of Myers and his good mate Si King is joy, particularly when they're enthused by their latest project.

BBC Two's Hairy Bikers – Chicken & Egg has seen the boys travel the world in search of the best recipes using, you guessed it, chicken or eggs, and now there's a cookbook to accompany the series.

It's a project that's been incubating for 10 years.

"It's always a book that's been on the boil, really," says Myers. "To a cook, they're such useful ingredients. We've done some stand-alone cookbooks that have been very successful but this does tick all the boxes, from soups to starters, desserts, baking, you've got the lot with chicken and eggs."

Filming the TV show took them to Israel, where they learned about the social history of chicken and visited the first place in the world it was eaten.

King explains: "We went on this archaeological dig in Jerusalem and down these caves where they'd found the first evidence of people eating chicken, you could see knife marks on the thigh bones of these chickens that were around before Christ."

HEALTHY: Dave Myers and Si King

"Around 70 per cent of Israelis apparently eat chicken once a day," adds Myers. "When Israel was formed, they were struggling to feed people, so everyone was given 100 chicks. They reared them up, then had to give 90 back to the state when they were chickens and they were allowed to keep 10. That way you could keep some for eggs, kill some, and so it would go on."

While they both have fond childhood memories of chicken Sunday roasts, the meat really came into its own when they turned to healthy eating in 2012, followed by a slew of Hairy Dieters books.

"We used chicken a lot in the diet books," says Myers. "You take the skin off and the whole chicken is between 700 and 900 calories, great if you're on a diet. If I were making tandoori, you can get the spice mix and fat-free yoghurt, marinate half a chicken, cook it over charcoal or bake it in the oven."

It's time to tackle that age-old question: Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

"The egg," says Myers. "Everyone knows the bird came from the lizard, so I think there came a point when the DNA of the egg changed to be more chicken than lizard."

"It was the chick," counters King. "You can't have an egg without a chicken. They descend from the Tyrannosaurus Rex."

Scarabeus' aerial show

AERIAL theatre company Scarabeus are bringing their acrobatic show to Canterbury's Gulbenkian on November 13.

The show, Depths Of My Mind, features four glass platforms suspended above the audience, with a performer on each, as well as a Chinese pole, music and of course, danger.

Tickets cost 38.50-£12.50 and can be purchased from www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

Southern Tenant Folk

SOUTHERN Tenant Folk Union are a string band that over a series of albums have produced a thought provoking and arresting take on roots and folk music and this autumn they're paying a visit to Canterbury Festival.

They are playing Canterbury Festival on October 30.

For tickets, call 01227 787787 or visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk

Method in Madness

THEATRE and reality blurs for an actress playing Ophelia. With bombs falling in London in the Blitz, her portrayal becomes the performance of her life.

Entita Theatre present Method in Madness, which fuses writing with physical theatre and dance.

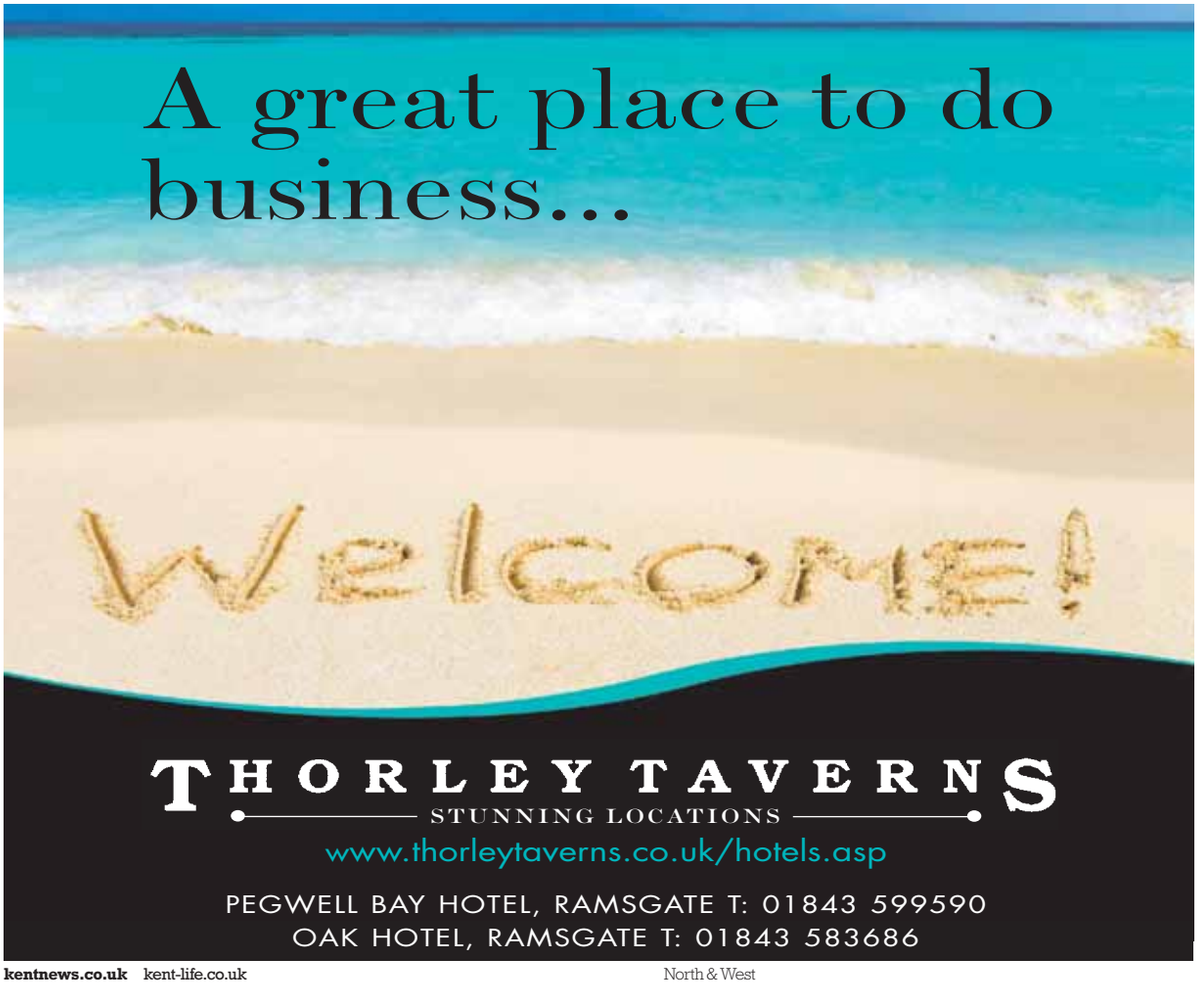
Coming to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on November 1-2. For tickets, visit marlowetheatre.com.

Laughing Boy Comedy

LAUGHING Boy Comedy Club next presents comedians Tom Allen, Angela Barnes and Mike Gunn at Gravesend's Woodville Theatre on November 24.

Mr Allen went on to win So You Think You're Funny and Mr Gunn has had appearances on programmes such as Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Harry Hill's TV Burp.

For tickets, visit woodville.seatlive.com



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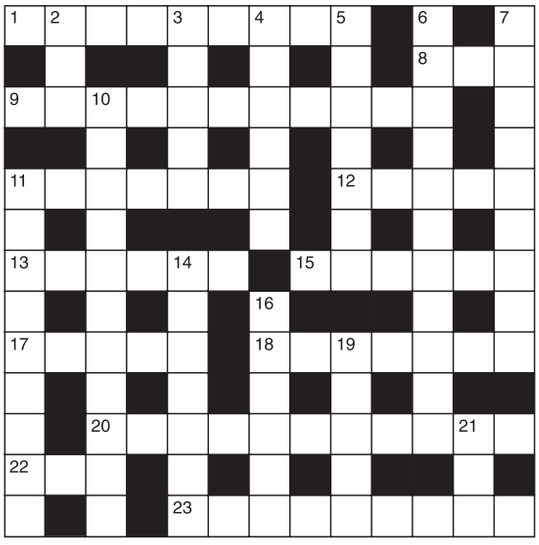
TV&lifestyle PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

1. Thwart (9)
8. Choose (3)
9. Synthesis (11)
11. Polluted (7)
12. The chosen (5)
13. Buccaneering (6)
15. Conflict (6)
17. Dodge (5)
18. Immediate (7)
20. Brainy (11)
22. Consume (3)
23. Disastrously (9)

Down

2. Flee (3)
3. Test (5)
4. Prizes (6)
5. Clear (7)
6. Papacy (11)
7. Assertion (9)
10. Casualness (11)
11. In the dumps (9)
14. Invented (7)
16. Murderer (6)
19. Stubborn (5)
21. Nothing (3)

Cryptic

Across

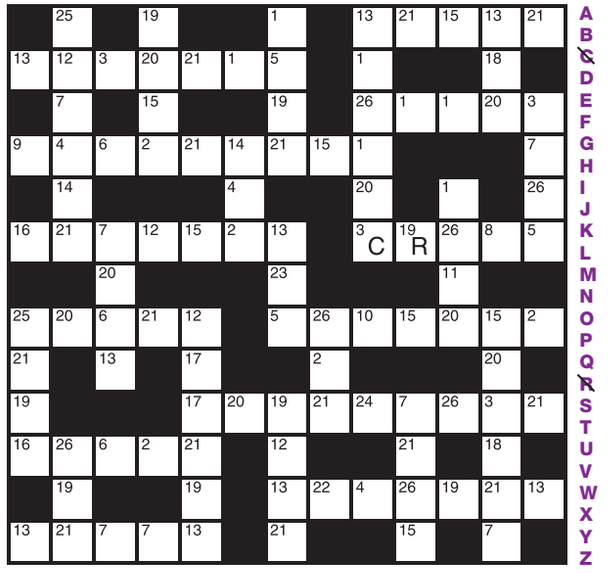
1. Mortals involved with me in deep turmoil (9)
8. The Roman I have in mind (3)
9. At the same time they were instructed to re-arrange solo matches (11)
11. Arrange a star part in a Western (7)
12. Not bound to relax (5)
13. Ship's mascot for the ancient mariner (6)
15. Artist in distress and difficulty (6)
17. A searching examination, by all accounts (5)
18. The male sort includes females as well (7)
20. Anyway, it's where papers like to have reporters (2,3,6)
22. Fuel for ovens not in current use (3)
23. One's tried for a military and domestic offence (9)

Down

2. Piece of linear curvature (3)
3. Beastly Holst competition (5)
4. Take a walk in the rose garden (6)
5. Sailor with the mate a great deal (7)
6. Building up afresh what's left before formal talk (11)
7. Once quoted about, becomes big-headed (9)
10. Strict hand drafts a new order (4,3,4)
11. Give the wrong directions? (9)
14. Apparent, but not in a sister's concern (7)
16. Yet they may form a large part of the weekly wash (6)
19. Nerve broken? Not at all! (5)
21. To love in excess (3)

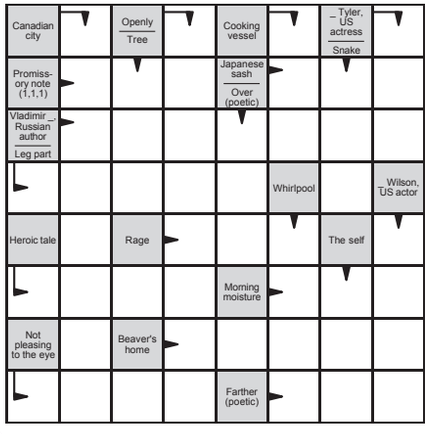
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Arrowword

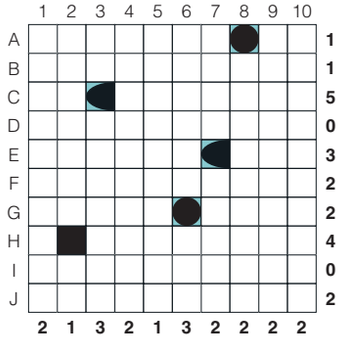


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

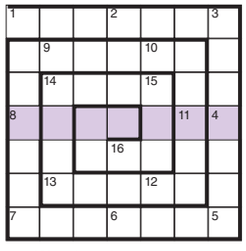
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Wooden shoe
2. Objective
3. Den
4. Paper quantity
5. Mutilate
6. Planet
7. Long audible breath
8. Stop
9. Wood
10. Leg joint
11. Sea eagle
12. Every
13. Shoe part
14. Raise
15. Therefore
16. Slight quarrel

Keyword clue: A low-growing shrub

SUDOKU

Hard

				3	5	8		
	1		7			9		
6		7						
	2		8				5	
	3			6			8	
	4				2		6	
						4		8
		2			9		1	
		1	3	8				

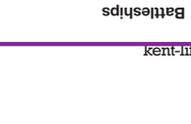
Easy

			2		1			4
		8		9	5	3		
	4		6				9	
5	1			7		2		6
4		2					3	1
	6				3		7	
	3					2		4
	8	4	7	5		1		
			3		6		2	

Solutions

Arrowword

Battleships



Double Crossword

Cryptic

Across: 1 Maelstrom; 8 Ego; 9 Schoolmates; 11 Marshal; 12 Loose; 13 Seadog; 15 Strait; 17 Audit; 18 Mankind; 20 At all events; 22 Gas; 23 Desertion.

Down: 2 Arc; 3 Sloth; 4 Ramble; 5 Mariner; 6 Restoration; 7 Conceited; 10 Hard and fast; 11 Mismanage; 14 Outward; 16 Smalls; 19 Never; 21 Too.

Quick

Across: 1 Frustrate; 8 Opt; 9 Unification; 11 Defiled; 12 Elite; 13 Piracy; 15 Strife; 17 Evade; 18 Instant; 20 Intelligent; 22 Eat; 23 Diretully. Down: 2 Run; 3 Trial; 4 Awards; 5 Evident; 6 Pontificate; 7 Statement; 10 Informality; 11 Depressed; 14 Created; 16 Killer; 19 Stiff; 21 Nil.

Codeword

1=T, 2=G, 3=C, 4=U, 5=Y, 6=D, 7=L, 8=Z, 9=J, 10=W, 11=X, 12=O, 13=S, 14=M, 15=N, 16=B, 17=F, 18=K, 19=R, 20=I, 21=E, 22=Q, 23=H, 24=P, 25=V, 26=A

Word Spiral

1 Clog; 2 Goal; 3 Lair; 4 Ream; 5 Maim; 6 Mars; 7 Sign; 8 Halt; 9 Task; 10 Knee; 11 Fine; 12 Each; 13 Heel; 14 Lift; 15 Thus; 16 Spat. **Keyword:** Heather

Sudoku - Easy

3	9	7	2	8	1	6	5	4
6	2	8	4	9	5	3	1	7
1	4	5	6	3	7	8	9	2
5	1	3	9	7	4	2	8	6
8	6	9	1	2	3	4	7	5
4	7	2	5	6	8	9	3	1
7	3	6	8	1	2	5	4	9
2	8	4	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	5	1	3	4	6	7	2	8

Sudoku - Hard

2	9	4	1	3	5	8	7	6
8	1	3	7	4	6	9	2	5
6	5	7	2	9	8	1	4	3
9	2	6	8	1	3	7	5	4
7	3	5	9	6	4	2	8	1
1	4	8	5	7	2	3	6	9
5	7	9	6	2	1	4	3	8
3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1	7
4	6	1	3	8	7	5	9	2

Chance to get 25% off on a trip to the Caribbean

Spacious villas, steps from the beach, on an unspoilt island that harks back to the past...

Small but perfectly formed Paradise Beach Nevis is the only beachfront villa resort on the Caribbean island of Nevis.

It suits multigenerational or family breaks - the Paradise Beach concierge will organise mountain biking, rainforest hikes, kayaking, horse riding and scuba diving for those keen to keep active.

This privately owned hideaway offers a choice of seven three and four bedroom thatched villas. All rooms are en-suite and each villa boasts a pebble-lined plunge pool, outdoor shower and private setting. Each villa also has a well-equipped gourmet kitchen. Talented chefs can be booked to create delicious Caribbean suppers leaving mum and dad free to enjoy time with the kids.

Once a week the resort has a fabulous lobster bake on the beach with drinks and a steel band at sunset.

Families can relax in the Beach Bar, a chic and quintessentially Caribbean spot to sip cocktails.

At just 36 square miles, Nevis prides itself on being unmarred by modern trappings, with no fast food outlets, coffee shop chains or casinos.Venture away from the resort and discover volcanic springs; giant frogs, turtles and Vervet monkeys; unspoilt rainforests and the charming capital, Charlestown, which retains its colonial-era architecture.

■ Paradise Beach Nevis offer 25% off stays between 3 January and 18 December 2017. Save up to £730 per person on a seven night stay. A week's stay in January costs from £2935 per person based on six people sharing. Transfers and flights from London Gatwick (BA) are included. Book by

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Doubts over the child refugees

There has been very little information about the so called 'child refugees'.

I demand to know under the Freedom of Information Act how many are coming to England and where they will be based and in what numbers.

Now I also know that this was supposed to be sanctioned by the Home office.

Again I would like to see the reports on who authorised this and the expected immediate costs, and long term costs and who will pay this money.

If this was sanctioned by a committee, who were the members responsible and if it went through parliament, who voted for the Bill?

Roy Philpott,
Kings Hill

Claims crime is now imported

Is there any wonder that – quote 'Violent crime levels show 24 per cent leap in England and Wales' – unquote.

England used to be a nice place to live, now with all the muggers, burglars, rapists and even murderers being allowed into Britain without even checking them, is it any wonder?

Even my home town and many small villages around that used to be called 'sleepy' have to get home before dark and lock their doors... I have never been a racist but now, the way this stupid government treats the so-called refugees is sick and it's getting worse.

It's about time we the ordinary people of Britain went on strike for a better and safer country to live in.

See what the government does then if nobody turned up for work in protest of the mishandling of our country... Who agrees?

John R O'Neon,
Folkestone

Boundary change fairer and cheaper

MANY of your readers will be familiar with the Boundary Commission's proposals to equalise constituencies and reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600. But they may not be aware of the benefits that will come from the government's manifesto commitment to ensure every constituency is equal.

The size of constituencies determines how many people vote for an MP to represent them in Parliament. Different sized constituencies mean that each person's vote holds different weight. The current boundaries are drawn up on data that is hugely out of date - in many cases dating back to 2000.

Equal constituencies mean each MP would be voted for by the same number of people, so everyone's voice in Parliament is equal. The changes would also see us save £66 million over the course of a Parliament.

The Boundary Review is now being carried out by the independent Boundary Commissions which are separate from Government. They recently published their proposals on how we will achieve equal constituencies and will be in London to hear the views of local people. I urge everyone to get involved and have their say on these proposals.

This Government is committed to delivering a democracy that works for everyone - one which is fair, secure and represents all in society. Moves to equalise parliamentary constituencies are one step to help achieve this.

Chris Skidmore,
Minister for the Constitution

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Remember non-human victims of our conflicts

AS Remembrance Day approaches, it is important to remember that war is not just a human catastrophe.

Millions of animals have also been killed and maimed in human conflicts. On the frontline, animals such as dolphins have been used to detect mines, and dogs have been parachuted into enemy territory where many of them died.

Animals also suffer in laboratories across the globe - including the notorious Porton Down facility in Wiltshire.

Here, animals such as monkeys, rats and guinea pigs are used to test weaponry and made to suffer the devastating effects of chemical warfare agents.

Farm and companion animals are also victims of war - when the bombs start to fall, and people flee, the animals are left to take the brunt of the bombing.

Animals do not start wars and they do not create weaponry, yet because humans do, they are made to suffer in war zones and in laboratories. The very least we do can do for them is to remember those animals for what they truly are: victims not heroes.

To order an 'Animals in War' pack, please contact Animal Aid on: 01732 364546.

Tod Bradbury
Animal Aid, Tonbridge

What of the man behind EU letters?

FOR some time we have had a battle of minds between Ray Duff and about four other correspondents who have kept Ray Duff wriggling like a fish on the hook.

As we have seen this 'debate' could go on forever – surely its about time to call it a day as 'neither the twain shall meet'. In the past we have had an insight into Phil Granger's background but what of Ray Duff's.

He initially put up a few good points which has led me to believe he has a socio-economics background – possibly working as an economist.

I am sure that many of your readers would like to know some details regarding his intricate knowledge of current affairs and perhaps a bit of his background.

Harry Williams,
Hythe

Oh, and he's got a

Remoaner coterie

IT'S disingenuous of DR Hedges to try to pretend our letters have been anything other than replying to the arrogant and ludicrous assertions of Ray Duff and his coterie! [KoS 16/10]

Mr Duff claims to know better than 17 million people and the political establishment that launched the Referendum, which he claims was just advisory, a test of the water, etc, when it's been repeated ad nauseam it was binding!

Now he claims it wasn't valid because enough people didn't vote, which would make most of our elections null and void, some being won on less than 40 per cent of the vote on a low turnout! And what special accommodation was made for the losers, that he wants for the Remoaners?

The Remoaners twist and turn trying to find any loopholes they can, any excuse not to accept the truth. If the vote had been exactly reversed, or the Remoaners just winning by a few votes, we'd have heard nothing from Mr Duff and his Remoaners about it being unfair, all wrong, bad for Britain, just advisory, etc... etc! It's they who have to bite the bullet and accept the result, like we've had to accept the corrupt and undemocratic EU for forty years!

Phil Granger,
via email

So, is the EU vote binding or not?

BEFORE debate on the 2015 Referendum Bill, MPs were advised in Briefing Paper 07212 that the referendum was only advisory and consultative and therefore non-binding.

If this is true, any claim by the Government that they have any authority to invoke article 50, without Parliamentary debate is blatantly false.

They keep coming out with the specious claim that they have a clear mandate,when it appears they have no mandate at all.

Perhaps KoS could elicit a comment from our local MPs, as part of the referendum debate is about Parliamentary sovereignty.

R Redding
Strood

Oh dears, we got it wrong... sorry

REGARDING the article in your East edition No 735 entitled 'Don't ignore danger of deers on our roads'.

I am sure that I am not the only one to point out that the plural of deer is deer, as in sheep.

Grammar Nazis everywhere are, I am sure, fuming.

Denton, the bear
Via email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Sunset over Sarre

by **Paul Breakell, from Canterbury**

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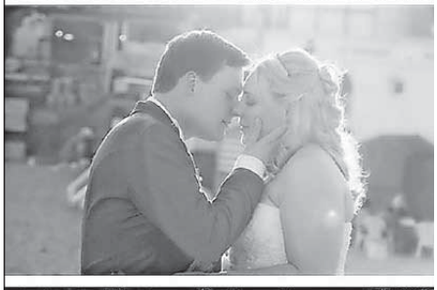

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driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

75TH ANNIVERSARY STARS: The Grand Cherokee (main picture), the Cherokee (top left) and Renegade (top right)

4x4 legend pops up in the wilds

JEEP'S 75TH YEAR: For many, it's the original go anywhere car, with heritage founded on the battlefield and built into a global brand...

IN a highly effective demonstration of its go anywhere heritage during its 75th anniversary year, Jeep created a pop-up showroom in the middle of nowhere.

The 'dealership' on the cliff edge of Robin Hood's Bay in the North York Moors National Park, was a location only accessible by 4x4 vehicles, which just happen to be the American brand's speciality.

Jeep used a '75th special edition' version of its Grand Cherokee flagship to tow the 3.5-tonne temporary premises to its windblown moorland location – see how it was done at https://youtu.be/lrFi-c44DZ4.

While passing trade wasn't expected, many surprised walkers and ramblers were welcomed in to discover more about Jeep's famed 4x4 credentials, born from a 1941 US military contract tender for a relatively humble light reconnaissance vehicle.

It became the legendary Jeep – the original battlefield taxi.

Some say 'Jeep' was a simple slurring of GP – military shorthand for General Purpose. Others insist it came from American GIs calling it 'Eugene the Jeep' – a character from the Popeye cartoons.

What isn't disputed is a highly-spec'd limited edition series of '75th Anniversary' Jeeps now on sale, ranging from the Renegade (from £26,795) – the brand's newest and smallest model – up to the Grand Cherokee version (from £50,550).

Jeep's mid-range contender, the Cherokee, is also available in 75th format (from £38,945) and brand fans will love the anniversary version of the classic Wrangler (from £34,765) the spiritual successor to the original Jeep design.

All celebratory models feature a distinctive livery: 75th Anniversary badge, low gloss bronze wheels, bronze and orange exterior inserts and exclusive interiors with all seats (except those of the Renegade) sporting the '75th' logo in relief.

Shades of green are a highlight of this celebratory line-up – echoing the hue that made the brand famous – but other colours are offered.

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KENT LIFE

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Predatory Optima 'wagon' circles rivals

ROAD TEST: Korean brand's champion load-lugger looks to have the armoury to take on the market properly – and in some style **writes Steve Loader...**

IN the same way that Skoda risks yet escapes humiliation with the model name Superb, Kia now plays a dangerous game with Optima.

Especially as the Korean brand's flagship is not 'optimum' or best in its class, but it's a pretty fine effort.

And the Optima saloon that impressed us a few weeks ago, has now been followed by the even better estate or Sportswagon variant, priced from £22,295 – commanding a £1,200 premium over saloon equivalents.

It's a stylish yet capacious load lugger, typically well-equipped and priced too, with the Korean brand's unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty.

It's not the first Optima we've seen; after two so-so family sector Magentis models, Kia tried a new look and name in 2012.

But the original saloon-only Optima was hampered here by limited engine choice: a single 1.7-litre diesel with relatively high CO2 emissions, which deterred tax conscious company car user choosers.

But one senses Kia means business with the new 2016 saloon and estate though.

The sleek style is carried over, but cabin fit and finish and driving dynamics have risen another level.

The latter is still geared more to comfort than sharp handling – a sop perhaps to the important USA market where the Optima sells like hot cakes – but this is still a car that adds more lustre to Kia's image.

There is good leg and headroom for all and the Optima feels like a big car inside though, admittedly, it's no minnow on the outside either.

But the Sportswagon takes it even higher; it's no 'lifestyle estate' that flatters to deceive, so that rakish rear end still delivers on space with 552 litres of boot or 1,686 of outright load space with seats down.

That defeats rivals like the Ford Mondeo (500 and 1605 respectively) and Vauxhall Insignia (540 and 1530) and it falls to the dearer VW Passat (from £24,230: 650 and 1780 litres) to put it in its place.

For the Sportswagon there is one choice of engine: a low emission 140bhp 1.7-litre turbodiesel, mated with either six-speed manual gearbox or smooth double-clutch seven-speed auto, though the saloon is also offered with a plug-in petrol-electric hybrid (PHEV) at £33,995, which will certainly interest company car drivers.

Concentrating on the Sportswagon though, we tested the smart-looking and generously equipped auto-only GT-Line S flagship.

In all honesty, you don't have to go to such dizzy heights as that though; standard Optima kit is generous, including dual-zone climate, cruise control, good gadget connectivity, hi-tech sat nav and infotainment touchscreen, and reversing camera.

The diesel's powerful low-end grunt can be a double-edged sword at times, causing front wheel scrabble on loose surfaces unless you are careful with the throttle.

But I'm nit-picking.

Kia Optima Sportswagon 1.7 CRDi 'GT-Line S' DCT

Price:	from £30,595
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Mondeo

Tunbridge Wells Hyundai
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4 Dec, 2016 & 20 Jan, 2017 - £129pp;
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Join us for a 60s-themed private party break at Stoke Rochford Hall near Grantham in the heart of rural Lincolnshire. This historic Victorian mansion is set in 28 acres of landscaped parkland with accommodation in the Stable Courtyard and Woodland Lodge annexe and entertainment in The Venue - for over 40s only, all located in the grounds. Enjoy a 60s tribute act both nights and access to the leisure club's gym, heated pool, sauna and steam room.

Price Includes: Entertainment • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing a a twin or double-bedded en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray & free wifi • Free parking

• Quote SR-KOS

Back to the 60s

Premium Carry on New Year Party
Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Friday, 6 January, 2017 - Quote: NY1-2-KOS

Join us for a private party that extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane - for over 40s only - at Warner Bembridge, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party, lots of nostalgic fun and Free Drinks every night. We've lined up a super entertainment programme featuring tributes to the Beatles, the Stylistics and Tom Jones plus the ever-popular team pantomime.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - room in main hotel upgrades available • Return car ferry & Free parking

Dutch Bulbfields & Amsterdam Cruise

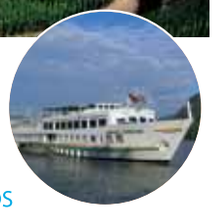
Hoorn, Keukenhof, Enkhuizen & Amsterdam

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick
3 April, 2017 - Quote: BD4-KOS

Join us for a fun and friendly cruise on board the MV Prinses Christina. A visit to Holland in springtime is a mesmerising feast for the senses as the gardens and fields are full to bursting with tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, spring flowering shrubs and plants. The highlight of this cruise is an included visit to Keukenhof Gardens with its magnificent floral displays. There is time to explore the canals, museums and flower markets of Amsterdam, plus Enkhuizen and Hoorn.

INCLUDED: Return rail travel by Eurostar from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR flights with luggage from Gatwick - supp't may apply • 4-nights full board cruise sharing a twin bed outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine by the glass, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Visit to Keukenhof Gardens • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

Rhine & Moselle River Cruise



Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Konigswinter & Cologne

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick
4 June & 3 September, 2017 - Quote: RH-KOS

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinses Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. Our cruise visits Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz, Konigswinter and Cologne. Accommodation is in comfortable outside twin cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

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Commercial VEHICLES

A buyer's guide...

Van sales motor on

NERVOUSNESS about the UK exit from the European Union has yet to afflict the van registrations.

And that's good news for all of us: that market is an important yardstick for the British economy and the confidence of business and consumers.

The new 66-plate from September 1 helped maintain strong demand: nearly 60,000 new vans were registered in the first month - 1.9 per cent more than September 2015.

It was also the first time since 2007 that year-to-date registrations exceeded 290,000 in September.

Continuing demand for pick-ups helped drive the steady overall increase in light commercial vehicles: the sector had its eighth consecutive month of growth in September, up 16.4 per cent.

SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said: "Businesses took advantage of the new 66-plate and a range of attractive and flexible finance options."

But he added: "To maintain this high level of demand and drive fleet renewal, positive business conditions must be assured despite the long-term political and economic uncertainty."

The continuing uptake of new vans is good news for the environment too, with all vans registered now needing to meet strict Euro-6 emissions regulations.

These vehicles feature advanced filters to capture 99 per cent of soot particulates, as well as exhaust systems to dramatically cut nitrogen oxide emissions.

There is also an increasing take-up of electric vans, particularly effective for operators in urban areas where operations may involve lots of stops and starts through both traffic and deliveries.

They can also be good for a company's eco image.

■ **Read on for tips on how to choose your next workhorse.**

EIGHT MONTHS' GROWTH: sales of pick-ups like the Isuzu D-Max are booming

CHARGING DEMAND?: urban operators like electric variants of popular vans like the Nissan NV200

SPACE RACE: Peugeot's Boxer flagship is battling it out at the top of van sector

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FLEXIBLE: amalgamating 'city' with 'van' says everything about the versatile Mercedes-Benz Citan

URBAN STAR: Isuzu's 3.5-tonne Grafter is ideal for those who need a compact dropside or tipper

It's not just a box

VANS are still basically boxes to be stuffed with cargo.

Yet operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers have enjoyed better performance, refinement and safety.

Much of this came from car-derived designs: originally modified superminis or family hatchbacks, with blanked out rear windows and a flat load space replacing back seats, but the same driver benefits such as air con and decent sound system.

The trend then migrated to larger vans, often derived from the better handling platforms of popular cars too.

Load capacities also grew: from as little as three cubic metres for a hatchback courier, right up to a cavernous delivery van.

Access has improved too. Many larger vans have a low-floor driving compartment for easy access, while most vehicles above supermini class now have a sliding side door as standard to aid loading - many buyers taking the option of a second 'slider'.

And there is usually a choice of side-opening twin rear doors or high lift tailgate, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle; it's easier then for a busy driver to grab and close the door, or avoid it swinging wide and hitting something... or someone.

The 'dualiner' is also popular, a van that can seat five and still carry a decent cargo. It's ideal for companies sending a crew on the road plus all their gear, or the owner operator/tradesman who must carry his gear on weekdays, and the family at weekends.

And it's not just vans that are changing, but how they are sold: with advantageous lease and buying plans, a new van offers the latest comfort levels, lowest operating costs from the newest powertrains, and will make you and your customers feel good about the business.

CLASSY: new generation Peugeot Expert is a smart panel van

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NV200 Acenta 1.5 dCi Van

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*Price of NV200 is based on a pre-registered vehicle. Business users only. Subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Based on 48 and 24 month non-maintenance contract hire packages. Excess annual miles charged extra. Ask for details. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. You will never own the vehicle. We are a credit broker (not a lender), we can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive commission from them for the introduction. Contract Hire provided by Black Horse Contract Hire, trading as Lex Autolease Ltd. Registered office: 25 Gresham Street, London EC2 7HN. Models shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede any previously advertised offers.

Van Buying Tips

● **Size it up** – gauging van space and weight needs is crucial for small or start-up businesses, so opt for one that can grow with your needs. Conversely, a bigger and under-used van could cripple a fledgling business through higher leasing and operating costs.
● **Access** – do you need one or two sliding doors, and will you have to unload in cramped spaces, meaning that twin rear doors will be better than a tailgate?
● **Powertrain** – you'll probably want diesel, though electric might be good for your firm's image and operating costs if you cover few miles. Opt for an automatic gearbox too for urban or stop-start work. If you cram your van and use all of its weight capacity, consider a bigger engine.
● **Do your research** – don't buy a brand just because you like its cars; the van business is different. And check which models win awards: van media tend to be hard-nosed about operating costs, convenience and other aspects – awards will be well earned.
● **Take a test drive** – you or staff member will spend lots of time in the van: will it work well for the regular driver and be easy to handle and park?
● **Does it look good?** – are appearances important to the company image or, the bottom line, what will neighbours or 'er indoors think when it's parked outside your house?
● **New or used?** – a new van is better for your business image, and promises greater reliability with no need for an MOT test for three years, but it costs more to acquire. A good compromise is to buy a smart used van with warranty from a main dealer, though quality used vans are still in short supply.

MERCEDES-BENZ DUO: the Vito and bigger Sprinter are the German brand's panel van stars

BIG NISSAN: the NV400 is the Japanese marque's big hitter

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Official fuel consumption figures in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the **Boxer Range** are: Urban 40.9 – 43.5 (6.9 – 6.5), Extra Urban 46.3 – 49.6 (6.1 – 5.7), Combined 44.1 – 47.1 (6.4 – 6.0) and CO_2 emissions 168 – 158 (g/km). For the **Bipper Range** are: Urban 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 76.3 (3.7), Combined 64.2 (4.4) and CO_2 emissions 115 (g/km). For the **New Expert Range** are: Urban 44.8 – 50.4 (5.6 – 6.3), Extra Urban 51.4 – 57.6 (4.9 – 5.5), Combined 47.9 – 54.3 (5.2 – 5.9) and CO_2 155 – 137 (g/km) and for for the **Partner Range** are: Urban 34.0 – 67.3 (8.3 – 4.2), Extra Urban 53.3 – 74.3 (5.3 – 3.8), Combined 43.5 – 68.9 (6.5 – 4.1) and CO_2 emissions 150 – 108 (g/km).
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. *Prices quoted are based on Bipper 1.3 Hdi Professional ATV 80bhp van. All rentals are based on a 24 month contract with 6 rentals in advance followed by 23 monthly rentals at 10,000 miles per annum. All rentals are subject to VAT. Any excess mileage will be chargeable. Offer subject to availability. Finance subject to status. 18s and over. Finance provided by PSA Finance UK Ltd t/a Peugeot Contract Hire, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Terms and conditions apply. A guarantee may be required. Business users only. Offers apply to eligible vehicles supplied and registered from 01/10/16 until such point they may be withdrawn by Peugeot Motor Company at any time without notice.

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Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone
(stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, School Business Manager
Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will NOT be accepted.

Closing date: 11.11.16
Interview date: 18.11.16

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(Full time – term time only – pro rata)

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Candidates should hold a relevant OT degree/qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development.

The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 11 November 2016

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Bradstow School

Living and learning together within a culture of gentleness

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs.

We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

To provide Human Resources based administrative support to the school, be the first point of contact to resolve queries from staff and management relating to pay, terms and conditions, liaise with Wandsworth Borough Council Departments, and to Supervise/Manage other HR staff on a day to day basis.

£25,694 - £27,394 pa - 37 hours per week. All year round

For all posts we look for candidates who are able to demonstrate maturity, and who are warm, creative and open to learning. Candidates must have a patient and caring attitude and be able to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.
or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is noon Friday 4th November 2016.

Interviews for this post will be held on 30th November 2016.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

Receptionist/Administrator - Ashford

Full time 37.5 hours per week (including weekends) Salary: £17,088 per annum

A key purpose of the role is to provide and efficient reception service for all patients, visitor, and callers to the unit across a 7 day rota.

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) Grade C or above
- 2+ years working in medical administration
- Customer Service Background
- Excellent IT Skills

Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: 04/11/2016 Interview dates: 10/11 November 2016

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Gemma Preston, Business Office Manager on 01304 222682

Ward Clerk/Administrator - Margate

Part time 20 hours per week Salary: £16,171.66

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and motivated Ward Clerk to join the team at Spencer Private Hospitals

The hours of work are as follows:

9.00am–5.00pm on Monday, 9.00am–2.00pm on Friday and 8.00am–4.00pm on Saturday

The successful candidate will be based on our friendly, caring and fast paced ward. As Ward Clerk you will need to have a flexible approach, outstanding communication and administration skills and be able to work well under pressure. Flexibility for further weekday working would also be desired to cover leave within the department.

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A –C Grade or equivalent
- 2 years working in an administrative environment
- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook
- Exceptional customer service skills

Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: 07/11/2016 Interviews will be held on Tuesday 22 November 2016

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01843 234552 (Margate) or Gail Cribbens, Nurse Manager on 01233 651818 (Ashford/Canterbury)

For job descriptions and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers
Alternatively, please contact Sarah Blaber, HR Assistant Telephone: 01304 222690
E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer PRIVATE HOSPITALS

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (2009 c23)

Consultation on proposed byelaw for prohibiting bottom towed fishing gear

The purpose of the proposed byelaw is to protect two specified areas of sandbank in Margate and Long Sands Site of Community Importance (SCI).

Copies of the draft byelaw, draft byelaw impact assessment and accompanying marine protected area assessment (including maps and coordinates of the areas, and questions to consider) are available from the MMO website www.gov.uk/guidance/marine-conservation-byelaws#current-mmo-byelaws or by calling 0300 123 1032, emailing conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk, or from one of the following locations:

MMO Lowestoft, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0HT

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD or The Sail Loft, Shipyard Estate, Brightlingsea, Essex CO7 0AR

Any person wishing to make representations must do so by 12 December 2016. Please send comments in writing to conservation@marinemanagement.org.uk or to the Marine Conservation Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH.

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Galliford Try Building Limited, Copperfields, Melbourne Avenue, Ramsgate CT12 6LW has applied to Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent for the Grant of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

A copy of the application may be inspected during normal office hours at the Thanet District Council offices, address above. The licensable activities will be Supply of Alcohol from 00:00 to 24:00 hours every day.

Any representations in respect of the application should be made in writing to the Licensing Department, Thanet District Council, P.O. Box 9 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent by 17th November 2016. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

Licensing Act 2003:

Application for Premises Licence.

Take notice that Paramdip Singh Virk has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for 56 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4DS. The application is to: sell alcohol on the premises only, between 11.00 and 21.45hrs every day. This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business. Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk. no later than 17th November 2016. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Gurpreet Singh Shergill trading as London Trucking Ltd of 38 Hillside Road, Crayford, Kent DA1 3NS is applying for a licence to use Tarmac Limited, Watery Lane, Westwell, Ashford, Kent TN25 4JJ as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Exodus expected as pressure grows

Margate boss Nikki Bull says more players will have to leave

Football

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

MARGATE boss Nikki Bull admits he expects the ramifications of the club's exit from the FA Cup earlier this month to be felt "for weeks to come".

The Blues have been dogged by financial troubles all season and defeat to Harrow Borough a fortnight ago robbed the club of a money-spinning clash with League One side Northampton Town.

Striker Michael Thalassitis left Hartsdown Road this week for Hemel Hempstead Town and the cash-strapped Gate are likely to see further departures as Bull tries to get the National League South outfit back on track.

"We've had a lot of injuries to key players and the ongoing stuff off the field has an impact so it's been a difficult time but we're trying to make the best of it," he told Kent on Sunday.

"There's always been uncertainty and financial problems and every time we make a bit of progress we end up back at square one.

"The Harrow game was particularly devastating for the club on a number of levels, because a win probably would have been worth £50,000 when you think about prize money, gate receipts and cash from TV highlights.

"The ramifications will be felt for weeks to come and particularly over the next four to six weeks we'll be trying to get players out to balance the books."

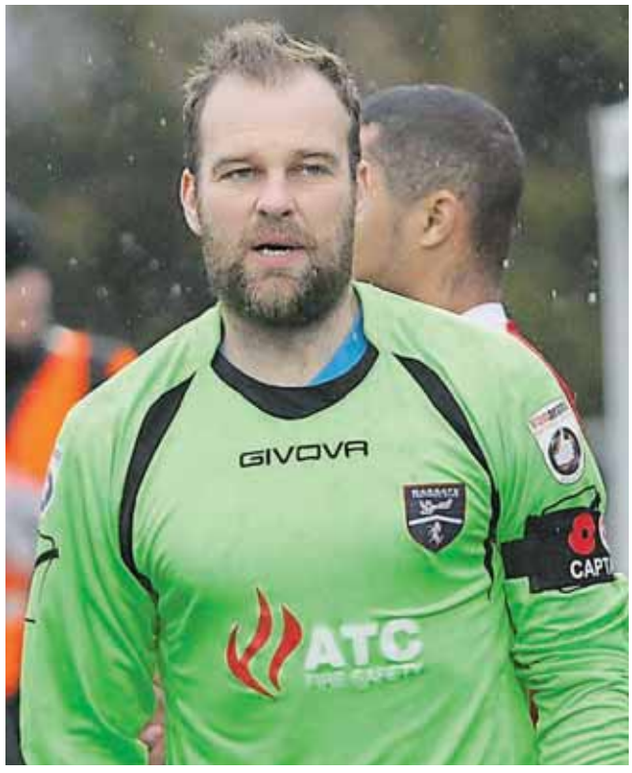
And Bull, who picked himself to play in goal for the fourth qualifying round tie, may well feature on the pitch again as the club's resources are stretched even further.

"At the time I thought that would be a one-off but I may have to find myself playing more and more because you need to cut whatever costs you can," he said.

"These decisions have to be made for the benefit of the club, it's not about my ambitions or that of the players.

"I consider myself a manager now and ideally you'd like to focus on that but needs must.

"We'll definitely have a couple of players leaving next week and I think the next month will decide what direction the club is going in."



TROUBLE: Margate boss Nikki Bull may have to feature as a keeper again

Young quartet earn international skiing call

Skiing

FOUR youngsters from Kent have been selected to the England Apline Ski Squad and will compete in a number of competitions over the coming months.

Ewan Robertson, 15, from West Malling, was also selected to race for the British Children's Ski Team and is aiming to improve his points in the Seeding System across all disciplines ahead of the coming season.

Ewan, who attends Maidstone Grammar School, will race for the under 16 boys Great Britain Team at the Youth International FIS Race in January 2017 in the Czech resort of Ricky v Orlickych horach.

Joining him in the race for the girls' team is Charlotte Tapsell, 15, from Alkham, Dover.

The Dover Grammar School student is going into the new season aiming to be ready for a number of International Ski Federation races.

Meanwhile, Kaylan Huisman-Muro, 13, from Sevenoaks, has been selected to the under 14 England Alpine Ski Squad and will also compete for Great Britain in an International Children's Race in the Czech Republic next January.

Kaylan, who attends Millfield School, says his season ambition is "to win an International Children's race when competing for Great Britain".

Finally, 12-year-old Max Laughland, from Woodchurchk will represent England at under 14 level.

Jenny Shute, youth manager of the Children's British Alpine Team offered "huge congratulations" to the quartet.

SELECTED: Ewan Robertson

Sport Shorts

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Goldberg brings Day back to Park View Road

FORMER Welling United manager Jamie Day has returned to the club as part of Mark Goldberg's backroom staff.

The 37-year-old has enjoyed success at Park View Road in the past, pushing the Bexley club to safety in his first season and then before mounting promotion challenges in the following years.

The Wings reached the National League South play-off final in 2012 but were beaten by local rivals Dartford before Day masterminded a title win and promotion to the National League the following season.

He then departed for Ebbsfleet United where he experienced mixed fortunes.

Goldberg said: "I have failed to commit the time required to be as thorough as I have been in the past as a manager at the same time as all has been required of me as the new owner.

"I have confidence we are now equipped to provide the coaching and support to our squad to get results and improve our league position to where it should be."

HOME: Welling United

HOME: Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence

Kent sign Will Gidman with permanent deal

WILL Gidman has signed a permanent deal with Kent after a successful loan spell with the county at the back end of last season.

The 31-year-old all-rounder scored five half-centuries in five county championship matches with the club and has a first-class batting average of 40 as he helped Kent to a second place finish.

Meanwhile, with the ball, the left-hander's accurate medium pace bowling claimed ten wickets in all formats including 3/28 against former club Gloucestershire in Kent's run to the Royal London One-Day Cup quarter-finals.

He said: "I'm really excited to make the move permanent. Kent is a great club with hugely exciting prospects and I feel privileged that I have the opportunity to be part of it."

Edinburgh gives players backing

GILLINGHAM boss Justin Edinburgh believes just one win would prove a catalyst for an upshot in form.

The Gills have endured a difficult October and some players have come in for criticism in recent weeks, but Edinburgh claims success will come with patience.

"I believe in the players, they believe in themselves," he said.

"I can see a confidence coming back into them. As easy as it is to tell the players what they need to do and how they should be doing it, it's difficult when you're not in good form.

"As long as we keep putting in performances like those [recently], a win is only matter of time. And once we get that elusive win, I have no doubt this group will go on a good run."

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